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Saipan Tribune

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'CIP funds cannot be used for operational expenses'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs said yesterday that capital improvement project funds "cannot be used for operational expenses of the CNMI government," but it is still reviewing Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's request to OIA to allow him to "redirect" over $4.35 million in CIP money from the Puerto Rico dump closure project to pay for public school and hospital "utility costs," "housing allotments for doctors and nurses," and hospital "payroll allotments."

» As Fitial awaits OIA decision on request to redirect $4.35M in CIP funds

But utility, housing allowance, and payroll costs fall under "operational" costs and not a capital improvement costs, Capital Hill sources privy to CIP and federal funds issues said.

Fitial wrote a request letter to Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs Tony M. Babauta. The date in that letter is Feb. 8, 2012.

A copy of that letter was requested and ob-

See CIP on Page 4

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

A GPPC Inc. employee unloads drum barricades from a truck at the soon-to-be completed Phase 2A component of the Cross Island Road Project in Papago yesterday afternoon. Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) has said that the CNMI has an estimated $54 million in unspent capital improvement project funds and some $11 million in unspent Federal Highway Administration funds that could have been circulating in the local economy at a time when finances are tough—from households to businesses and government agencies such as the NMI Retirement Fund and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

ON TOP OF $11.58M LINE OF CREDIT, HOSPITAL REVENUES

CHC to lawmakers: Give $10M annual subsidy for several years

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

» House, Senate will try to act on compromise bill today

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief financial officer Alvaro Santos told members of the House of Representatives yesterday to provide a $10 million annual subsidy to CHC for "several" years to help sustain its operations and continue to provide services to indigent patients, on top of an $11.58 million line of credit and loan package that the full House didn't act on by late

See CHC on Page 4

Medicaid owes private dental clinics $1.6M

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

» Administrator says govt cash-flow problem delays payment to providers

The CNMI Medicaid Office disclosed yesterday that due to the government's severe cash flow problems, its ability to fulfill obligation to providers was hampered resulting in the private dental clinics' decision to temporarily hold services to eligible clients.

Medicaid administrator Helen Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that to date the agency owes a total of $1,561,291.75 to four private dental clinics on island.

Sablan revealed that of the four providers, Medicaid owes the biggest to Seventh Day Adventist, amounting to $889,465.50. The company, due to the payment delinquency, suspended the services since

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OPINION METER
This week's poll:
Should the CNMI lease one of its Northern Islands to Japan, which plans to use it as dumping/recycling site for debris from the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami?
Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

BUSINESS

Federal prosecutors brought the first criminal charges Tuesday in the Gulf oil spill, accusing a former BP engineer of deleting more than 300 text messages that indicated the blown-out well was spewing far more crude than the company was telling the public at the time.

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LIFE & STYLE

The trial of the man charged with murdering three of Jennifer Hudson's family members resumed Tuesday with the Oscar-winner shutting her eyes as a police officer described finding her dead family members and later leaving the courtroom before photos of their bodies were shown.

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Local

Quitugua family shuts down portion of Sta. Lourdes Road

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Luisa Quitugua, 79, shows a court's final judgment issued in August 2005, ordering the CNMI government to pay her compensation over the taking of her land located along Sta. Lourdes Road in As Teo.

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A family closed down a portion of Sta. Lourdes Road in As Teo yesterday after the CNMI government allegedly failed to pay its use for a public road after 27 years of promises.

"For 27 years, promises, promises. Politics, politics. I'm not getting paid until now," said 79-year-old Luisa Quitugua. "This is not a homestead property."

Enough of empty promises from the government, Quitugua came up with a decision to shut down a 65-yard gravel portion of the Sta. Lourdes Road at 11am yesterday.

Upon Quitugua's decision, her son, Elbert Quitugua put three road bumps and soil to block the road in front of their residence. Motorists have been diverted to use a small entrance of Luisa Quitugua's property.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

The Quitugua family blocks and diverts a portion of Sta. Lourdes Road in As Teo after not getting over $77,000 in compensation from the CNMI government despite a court judgment in 2005.

Elbert said they already told the Legislature since January that they will close the road and divert the motorists passing the area.

Elbert said last February during a Senate and House joint session, they already informed the lawmakers of their plan to temporarily detour the road.

Elbert showed *Saipan Tribune* a copy of a final judgment issued by Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman on Aug. 1, 2005.

In that judgment, Wiseman ordered the CNMI government to pay Luisa Quitugua the remaining principal sum of $77,137 plus interest at 3 percent per annum and post judgment at 9 percent in compensation for the two lots consisting of 348 and 365 square meters.

Elbert said since no payment was given despite final judgment, in December 2009 they filed an application for order in aid of judgment to collect the compensation.

"She never get relief from the court after 15 consecutive hearings in two years," he said.

Elbert said the judge told them to come back again next month because the government has no money.

"She's tired being offered empty promises," Elbert said, adding that it's better they plant coconuts and bananas on the property.

Cashier testifies how suspects beat her up at store

A female cashier who was allegedly beat up by five persons at a store in Chalan Kanoa, testified yesterday in the ongoing jury trial of three defendants.

The government called to the witness stand Xiaoping Tudela in the trial of defendants Anson Sansi, Arinna A. Reiong, and Norna Tipingeni.

Tudela narrated how the suspects started beating her up when she confronted defendant Cheroleen Ray for slamming the telephone on its console at Dhaka Store on Texas Road in the morning of Aug. 8, 2011.

When a police officer responded to the store, the cashier, Tudela, was lying in a pool of blood on the floor.

Ray and co-defendant Mark Rudolph had already entered a guilty plea and subsequently sentenced.

Attorney Ramon Quichocho, counsel for Reiong, conducted a cross-examination on Tudela until past 12pm yesterday. Quichocho continued the examination on Tudela yesterday afternoon.

Attorneys Joaquin Torres and Michael Evangelista are court-appointed counsels for defendants Sansi and Tipingeni respectively.

Assistant attorney general Nicole Driscoll prosecuted the case.

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman is presiding over the trial that began on Monday. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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This project is supported by Grant No. 2010-MU-AX-0019 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication/proposal/exhibition are those of the authors(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.

Mafnas: I always exercise impartiality and justice

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

On-leave Department of Public Safety commissioner Ramon C. Mafnas stated that he "always exercises impartiality and justice."

Asked by Office of the Attorney General chief investigator Vicente Babauta during an interview on April 4, 2012 regarding a petition for his removal as DPS commissioner, Mafnas said he conducts his performance of duties and responsibilities for and in the interest of the people of the Commonwealth and the department.

Babauta's notes that contain Mafnas' interview were among the several exhibits included in the OAG's report concerning many allegations of misconduct against Mafnas. Babauta listed the location of his interview with Mafnas only as "San Roque residence." Babauta and Mafnas are neighbors, *Saipan Tribune* learned.

According to Babauta's notes, Mafnas stated that in any office business or any incident, it's his ultimate responsibility to make sure that he establishes coordination, planning, operation, logistic, financial, human resource, necessary for successful outcome.

"My present or action is nothing personal against anybody, my business is strictly objective to insure protocol follow, so the outcome is successful," Mafnas said.

Over 140 DPS personnel signed the petition for Mafnas' removal. Police Capt. Pedro Leon Guerrero spearheaded the petition.

According to the petition, "Mafnas' authoritarian leadership, confrontational approach, micro-management and lack of faith and trust in the staff of the Department of Public Safety has brought a never ending fear of reprisal, humiliation and degradation within our ranks and file."

On the petition issue, the OAG's report said the challenge with the petition is that it contains general allegations that are "too vague to form the basis of any proposed action against Mafnas.

The OAG said greater specificity was essential to give the investigation an appropriate scope and focus.

Thus, the OAG said, chief investigator Babauta was asked to separately interview the primary authors of the petition—Police captains Leon Guerrero and Lawrence Camacho—to obtain specific examples of each of the four general allegations.

For these interviews, the OAG said 11 specific incidents were identified as appropriate investigative areas.

The OAG's report found, among other things, that Mafnas violated investigative standards and interpersonal standards of conduct but cleared him of any violation of law.

Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham, chief prosecutor Peter Prestley, and OAG chief investigator Babauta prepared the OAG report upon Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's instruction to investigate the allegations against Mafnas.

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Fitial relieved Mafnas cleared of law violations

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial is relieved that his Cabinet appointee, Department of Public Safety Commissioner Ray Mafnas, has been cleared of any violation of law but is concerned about findings that he violated investigative and interpersonal standards, press secretary Angel Demapan said Tuesday.

» But governor concerned about other findings

"While he is relieved that no violations of law were found, the governor remains cognizant of the other inappropriate actions cited in the report," Demapan said, referring to the findings of the Office of the Attorney General's 25-day investigation on the allegations against Mafnas.

Demapan said the governor is reviewing the report in its entirety at this time.

It's not known whether Fitial would proceed with his plan to call for a news briefing on Thursday, wherein he might announce his decision on what to do with Mafnas.

As of Tuesday, Mafnas is still on administrative leave and there's no schedule for him to return to work, Demapan added.

Attorney General Edward Buckingham, at a news briefing on Monday, said a violation of investigative standards is a matter of significance warranting serious consideration by the governor.

The OAG also determined that Mafnas violated DPS operating protocols, which suggest the need for the commissioner to have additional management oversight and possible training.

It also said Mafnas violated interpersonal standards of conduct, which suggests follow-up and possible training needs.

But it concluded as "unfounded" seven other allegations against the commissioner.

The OAG submitted the 74-page report, mostly exhibits, to Fitial on Friday.

Inclusion of foreign workers in Saipan ID system pushed

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan) introduced yesterday a local bill that seeks to include foreign workers in the definition of a person authorized to apply for a Saipan resident identification card.

His still unnumbered local bill also amends the definition of "Freely Associated States" to include the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

Yumul said local banks, stores, and other business establishments require proper identification in order to cash personal, government, company and other checks.

There are instances when Saipan residents, either U.S. or non-U.S. citizens including foreign workers, are required to provide two forms of ID cards to properly identify themselves. This is why Yumul introduced the local bill.

His local bill amends 10 CMC 30301 to add a new definition: "A lawfully employed foreign national worker who is residing on Saipan for a contract term of not less than one year."

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MEET THE MMAC TEAMS

Team TakeCare/FHP/Grace Christian Academy

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

MMAC Committee's note: As we mark the 10th anniversary of the Marianas March Against Cancer, the 2012 MMAC committee would like to honor and recognize the efforts of our teams for their untiring support in the fight against cancer.

The Marianas March Against Cancer being a worthy cause is what encouraged TakeCare/FHP employees and Grace Christian Academy students to form a team and support the largest annual cancer fundraising event in the CNMI.

"We find it a huge honor to be a part of MMAC and in helping raise awareness in the fight against cancer, as well as the opportunity to raise funds toward finding a cure," said the team led by captains Diane M. Sablan and Beth Nunez.

The team's favorite part of the MMAC event is the lighting of the luminaries, which honors those who are "bravely fighting the fight" and to "remember those who have passed on."

"It is a very special and emotional moment for everyone," Team TakeCare/FHP/GCA stated.

Team members expressed excitement about their theme this year, "Each Minute is a Victory," with their tent to feature sports-related activities. The group will make available at their tent sports items, glow-in-the-dark bracelets, and other items for the public to enjoy.

Team TakeCare/FHP/GCA encouraged families and community members to bring their children to enjoy their exciting games and to purchase items to raise funds for cancer awareness in the Commonwealth.

The team noted that "survivors are our heroes" and they are "incredibly proud" to have a partnership for the 2012 MMAC. "It's an event worth taking part in."

Team Grace Christian Academy.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Team TakeCare/FHP.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MEDICAID

From Page 1

March 13 until further notice.

Smile Marianas has the second biggest collectibles from the Medicaid program, with $426,976 to date, while Toothworks is owed $207,871, also resulting in the immediate stop of the service to Medicaid clients until payments are received from the program.

The administrator added that Dental Care has unpaid obligations worth $36,979.25, which is also the reason why it suspended service to Medicaid customers two months ago.

Since the recent shutdown of the dental clinic at the Commonwealth Health Center, many parents of mostly Head Start students are finding difficulty in getting a dental provider from the private sector, as these clinics stopped accepting Medicaid clients due to growing receivables from the government.

Dental service is among the major requirements for all children enrolling for the Head Start program of the Public School System.

Sablan cannot immediately say yesterday as to when the obligations to providers will be paid, or when will the next payment will be made. She stressed the issue of the government's financial condition.

"The issue is the cash flow. We have the federal funding, however, it requires 45 percent local funding matching and our local budget allocation is only $2.4 million for fiscal year 2012," she told *Saipan Tribune*. Medicaid, which used to be under the Department of Public Health, was transferred to the executive branch along with the off-island medical referral program when the new healthcare corporation took over last year.

Sablan emphasized yesterday that the $1.6 million obligation cited above has not yet been transmitted to the Department of Finance.

"Finance is working on the report to see how much is the payable that is still pending in their system for our Medicaid providers," added Sablan.

Press secretary Angel A. Demapan said yesterday that cash-flow problem is the reason why Gov. Benigno R. Fitial is pushing for the removal of matching funds for the Medicaid program.

"Obviously the issue is cash flow. This is why Gov. Fitial previously asked Delegate Kilili to help the CNMI by pushing legislation to reduce the local match requirement, just like other states and territories. While it is noble to secure tens of millions in federal Medicaid dollars, it has no impact when the local government's ability to meet the 45 percent match is incapacitated," said Demapan, adding that the Fitial administration had hoped that the CNMI delegate would have helped the Commonwealth secure a much lower matching requirement, and in turn, increase the local government's ability to ensure that payments are made to providers.

"What's the use of securing millions of federal dollars when the only way to use it is to match it with local dollars that the Commonwealth does not have?" added Demapan.

CIP

From Page 1

tained from the Fitial administration yesterday afternoon.

OIA said it received a letter from Fitial on Wednesday, April 18.

Rebecca Zepeda, policy advisor at OIA, said in response to *Saipan Tribune* email interview that Fitial's request "is still under consideration."

"…However, OIA recognizes that a recipient's Capital Improvement Project (CIP) priorities may change due to unforeseen circumstances. As a result, from time to time, CIP funds could be requested for redirection from their original purpose to facilitate the efficient and effective use of grant funds," she said.

When asked whether there will be conditions attached, Zepeda said there is none currently being contemplated as the request is still being considered.

"Additionally, CIP funds cannot be used for operational expenses of the CNMI government," Zepeda said.

When asked whether OIA has communicated any warning or put the CNMI on notice for not spending CIP money fast enough, Zepeda said "OIA has expressed its concern regarding the CNMI's unspent balance of CIP funding and continues to work closely with the CNMI to reduce the balance by ensuring that projects are implemented as quickly and efficiently as possible."

She said additionally, in 2009, OIA revised the CIP competitive allocation criteria to measure the rate at which CIP funds are expended by each recipient government.

"Since the competitive allocation criteria determine the amount of annual CIP funding allocated to the territories, the expenditure rate of CIP funding does impact the amount received by the CNMI annually. However, considerations are made to account for large-scale projects which require multi-year funding," she added.

Fitial, in his two-page letter to OIA's Babauta, said the CNMI requests the redirection of prior grant awards "in order to meet an immediate shortfall in revenues that threatens continued operation of the Commonwealth Public School System and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp."

"In specific, we are seeking authority for the short-term redirection of funds from the Puerto Rico Dump Closure Project to utility costs ("Redirected Funds"). The Redirected Funds taken from the Puerto Rico Dump Closure Project will be restored by an amended FY 2013 CIP grant application," Fitial told Babauta.

The total proposed redirection is $4,351,407, for "utility costs."

These include $87,294 previously given to the Puerto Rico Dump closure project in grant year 2006; $2,990,160 from 2007; and $1,273,953 from 2008.

Fitial said the proposed redirected CIP funds will be used as follows: $2 million for PSS and $2,351,407 to CHC.

He said the over $2.35 million request from CHC consists of the following expenses: $390,000 for housing allotments for doctors and nurses for the period covering December 2011 through February 2012); $570,000 for payroll allotments for all employees for December and January; and $1,391,407 utility delinquency from Oct. 1, 2011 to Jan. 27, 2012.

Fitial asks OIA to provide flexibility to the CNMI in the use of CIP funds "to meet unanticipated costs increases that are directly affecting the essential services of healthcare and education."

The governor placed CHC under a state of emergency again on April 20 to allow for reprogramming of funds and for CHC to continue to contract with International Consulting Services LLC for medical billing services without going through standard procurement rules—all to help prevent a hospital shutdown.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) earlier said that by end-September, the CNMI will have a total of unspent CIP funds of $54 million.

Zepeda said the figure is currently $52 million.

At $52 million, the CNMI is the territory with the highest amount of unspent CIP funds, Zepeda said.

CHC

From Page 1

yesterday afternoon.

The $10 million requested annual subsidy is still way below the $38 million government subsidy to the hospital before it became a corporation in fiscal year 2012.

The Fitial administration gave the corporation $5 million in seed money and expected the hospital to collect $18 million in revenues in 12 months.

Santos said besides still being baffled by the insufficient $5 million seed money, he said it was an "illusion" or a "dream" to think that CHC could collect $18 million in a year.

He said between October and March 31, CHC was able to collect only $5.7 million, even as CHC works on improving its billing and collection.

"That annual subsidy (of $10 million) will help keep the hospital afloat… Personally I am not crazy about the line of credit. It's good but it costs money but right now, we don't have a choice," Santos told House members.

If CHC draws down $10 million from that line of credit, the interest alone would cost $660,000 and Santos said the hospital could have used this amount to pay hospital supplies.

Santos said the hospital also has to take care of indigent patients as well as previous obligations of the hospital.

He later told reporters that even hospitals in Guam and Hawaii, long after they became corporations, still continued to receive subsidy from the central government.

Since last year, CHC has always teetered on the edge of a shutdown because of lack of funds.

Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan), during the session, pointed out that CHC should not be made to pay for the past obligations of the hospital prior to it becoming a corporation.

He said prior obligations of the hospital should be shouldered by the Department of Finance, and not the corporation.

Santos mentioned some $7 million in prior years' obligations, along with some $2.1 million in unpaid employer contribution to the NMI Retirement Fund.

The discussions was a prelude to what Santos said would be CHC's request to the House Ways and Means Committee and the full House as they deliberate on FY 2013 budget.

Santos made the request for annual subsidy before the House discussed late yesterday afternoon a conference committee bill allowing the Marianas Public Land Trust to give up to $10 million line of credit and $1.58 million loan to CHC.

House minority leader Joseph Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) and Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan) started raising questions, again, of whether the $11.58 million was "public debt" or not.

The discussions went on until Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) called for recess without acting on the conference committee report on House Bill 17-278.

Moreover, only 17 of 20 members were present, and the House leadership might not be able to muster at least 15 votes to pass the bill that a six-member conference committee from the House and Senate worked on for weeks.

The Senate also postponed its session yesterday afternoon to today because of transportation issues for some senators.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota), however, said the CHC line of credit bill will be taken up today.

The $11.58 million line of credit and loan includes the $3 million that MPLT already provided to CHC, as well as a $1.58 million loan for the hospital's electronic system, leaving up to $7 million in additional line of credit.

The bill was bouncing back between the House and the Senate since December, and lawmakers' inability to pass it swiftly drew criticism from CHC doctors and other medical personnel.

Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), co-chair and spokesperson of the six-member Conference Committee on House Bill 17-278, said the joint panel agreed to secure future interest from MPLT to assist CHC so they can continue in providing healthcare for the CNMI.

The governor placed CHC under a state of emergency, again, on Friday to allow for reprogramming of funds and for CHC to continue to contract with International Consulting Services LLC for medical billing services without going through standard procurement rules—all to help prevent a hospital shutdown.

Sandy Beach Homes offers rent-to-own furniture deal

In a move to help more low-income families, Sandy Beach Homes, the CNMI's first Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) residential complex, announces recent changes to help reduce move-in costs for tenants.

The complex is now offering a used furniture rent-to-own package for tenants. In addition, the one-month security deposit is now payable over the term of the 12-month lease agreement, with the first payment of $60 due to reserve a unit.

"In light of the current economic situation, we understand families and individuals need as much help as we can offer to help them enjoy a safe, secure, and comfortable home," said Sandy Beach Homes managing [artner Bob Jones. "Along with our rent reduction last month, these changes will make it easier for households to avail of our excellent homes."

The recent changes come on the heels of a rental reduction last month to $695/month.

Sandy Beach Homes is funded under the federal LIHTC housing program through Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

Each three-bedroom, two-bath home also features a number of energy conservation features, including a solar hot water heater and insulated double-paned windows. Other features of the home include an in-unit washer and dryer, A/C, water purification system, and ceiling fans in every room.

The refrigerator, stove, and dishwasher are Energy Star® rated. Additional amenities include security cameras, a balcony overlooking Saipan's western lagoon, a parking garage, typhoon shutters, and a large standby generator with automatic power switch. There are also four ADA units available.

The used furniture rent-to-own package set includes three twin beds, two loveseats, chairs, nightstands, and lamps.

Interested individuals may visit the model home located in unit #210 from 9:30am to 5:30pm Monday through Friday and from 8am to 12pm on Saturdays.

The Sandy Beach Homes complex sits in the heart of Chalan Kanoa, within walking distance of stores, banks, schools, churches, and the main post office.

The opportunity to stay at Sandy Beach Homes is open to all legal CNMI residents, including non-U.S. citizens, as long as income and other eligibility requirements are met. Families or unrelated individuals in a group living arrangement may apply as a household.

Applications, a list of required documents, and details about the homes can be found at www.sandybeachhomes.net. Applicants are encouraged to bring their applications for assistance.

For more information, e-mail the leasing office at leasing@sandybeachhomes.net or call 670.235.7263 (SAND). ***(PR)***

MHS Class of '83 meeting tomorrow

The Marianas High School Class of 1983 will be holding a general meeting tomorrow, April 27, 2012, 6:30pm at the Garapan Beach Road Pavilion next to the 13 Fishermen Monument.

You may contact Tonnei Camacho at 483-9665 for more details. ***(PR)***

Marianas March Against Cancer
2012
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April 27 – 28 at the
Hopwood Jr. High School Field
Visit the MMAC Shop and avail of the following...
The Human Papilloma Vaccine (HPV Vaccine). The HPV Vaccine is available for girls ages 9 to 18. To avail to the HPV Vaccine, child must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.
HIV Rapid Testing will also be available on site.
Various Public Health Programs will be exhibiting and disseminating informational brochures during the event.
The Non Communicable Disease (NCD) Unit will be hosting a trivia game/questions for a chance to win educational incentives.
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORP.
Established October 2011
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS
This is a partnering effort with the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation, Division of Public Health and the Commonwealth Cancer Association.

THE SAFE JAMBOREE
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APRIL 28, 2012
The Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence and Family Violence Task Force invite you for a day of family fun at the second annual
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April 27, 2012 - 6:30pm - 9:00pm
April 28, 2012 - 10:00am - 9:00pm
April 29, 2012 - 10:00am to Championship Game!
Team Sufa
Team One Vision
Team One Young Vision
Team Natibu
Team Olomwahu
Team 79 Respect
Kagman High School
Team Pac-Chain
Team Adahi Hao
Team Warriors
Rock Against Sexual Violence Concert
10:00am - 9:00pm
Plus food vendors and exhibit booths all day long!
Special thanks to:
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
This project is supported by Grant No. 2010-MU-AX-0019 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication/proposal/exhibition are those of the authors(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.
IT'S TIME TO TALK ABOUT IT!
Join the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence SAFE Jamboree!
IT'S TIME TO TALK ABOUT IT!
CONNECT. RESPECT. END SEXUAL VIOLENCE
Sexual Assault Awareness Month
Please contact 234-3878 or email safejamboree@gmail.com for more information.

Visiting Rotarian wants to revive AMP fundraising arm

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A visiting Rotarian who was instrumental in raising funds for the development of the American Memorial Park wants its fundraising arm revived to accomplish projects that would encourage more tourists in the CNMI.

John M. Romisher, who is now based in Albuquerque, New Mexico, said in an interview that bringing back the non-profit group Historical Society of the American Memorial Park would allow the completion of a track, soccer field, and a stadium with bleachers—projects which they were unable to accomplish during their time.

CLARISSA V. DAVID
Visiting Rotarian John Romisher shows a copy of his Historical Society of the American Memorial Park files while Saipan Rotary Club president Pete Igitol looks on during the club's membership meeting on April 17.

"If somebody would do that, I will be happy," he said, referring to the re-establishment of the Historical Society of the American Memorial Park, which raised funds used to build the amphitheater and other elements of the memorial park.

Romisher, who was the group's fundraising committee chair, stressed the need to revive the group despite the economic downturn so as to undertake projects which would encourage tourists to come to Saipan and provide them with places to visit.

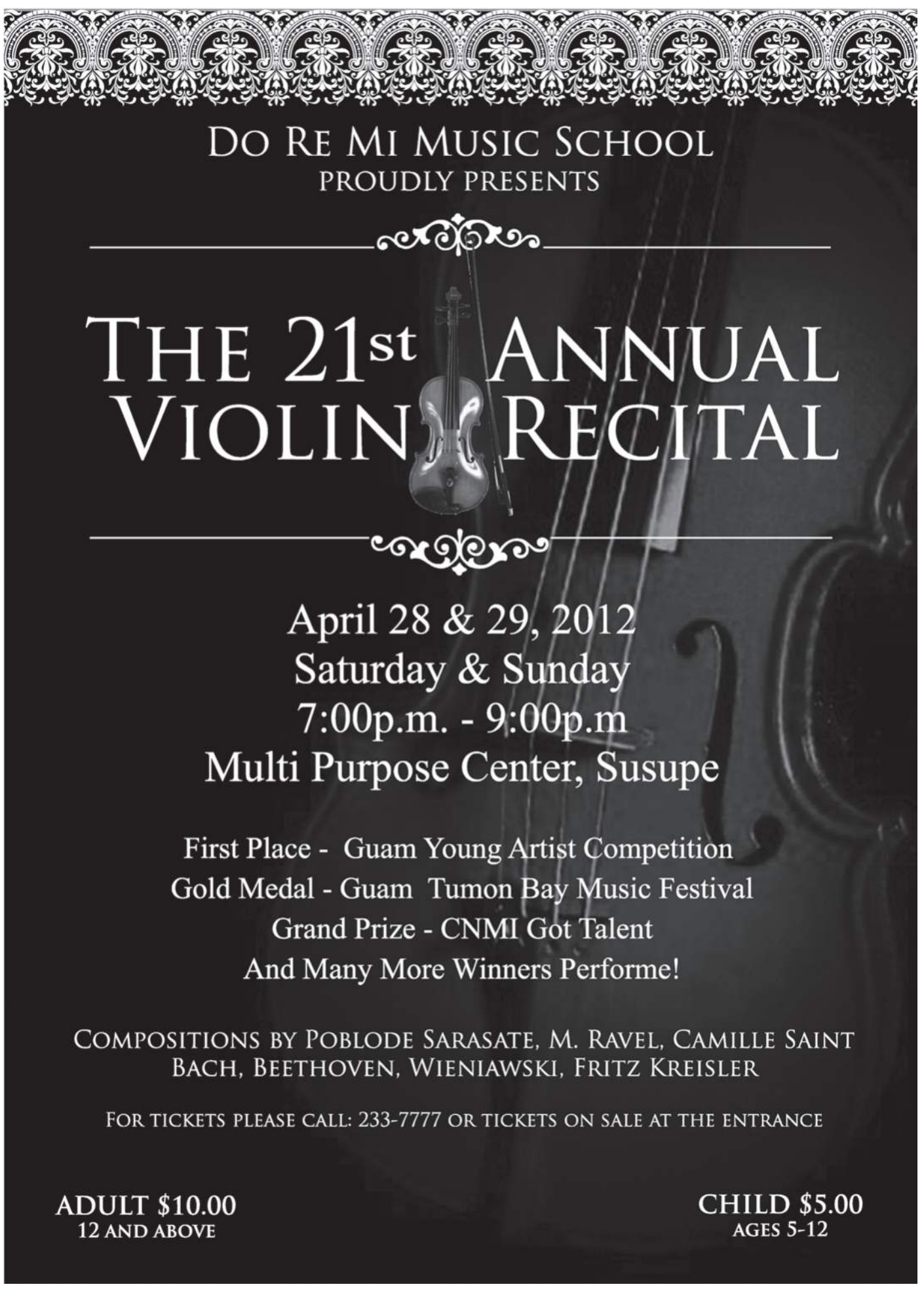
"The economic situation is always going to be a problem in the near future," he told *Saipan Tribune*. "However, we have beautiful hotels, we still have airplanes coming in with tourists, we still have tour buses, and we should have more activities oriented to the park… We should get some outside tour groups to also come in and help us promote. I think it's a viable option and always will be."

Romisher, a former associate professor at the Northern Marianas College and director of training for DFS Saipan Ltd, arrived on Saipan with wife Lydia Camacho Romisher for a visit which was originally scheduled back in 2004. "Some unusual incidents regarding health" prompted the couple to move back their trip this year.

"I'm always happy to come back to Saipan," said Romisher, who now teaches culinary arts and tourism classes at Santa Fe Community College. He noted, though, that there have been "obvious economic changes" in the Commonwealth since they left in 1997.

Romisher, who is also a member of the Saipan Rotary Club, turned over to Rotary president Pete Igitol on April 17 a flag and a copy of the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Saipan commemoration "because the speech for fundraising was made here at a Rotary meeting."

He also presented Yosh Gabaldon a coin commemorating the golden year of the battle and was minted by DFS. Gabaldon is the son of the late Marine Private First Class and author Guy Gabaldon, whom Romisher described as "one of the strongest individuals that helped prepare the park."


DO RE MI MUSIC SCHOOL
PROUDLY PRESENTS
THE 21st ANNUAL
VIOLIN RECITAL
April 28 & 29, 2012
Saturday & Sunday
7:00p.m. - 9:00p.m
Multi Purpose Center, Susupe
First Place - Guam Young Artist Competition
Gold Medal - Guam Tumon Bay Music Festival
Grand Prize - CNMI Got Talent
And Many More Winners Performe!
COMPOSITIONS BY POBLODE SARASATE, M. RAVEL, CAMILLE SAINT
BACH, BEETHOVEN, WIENIAWSKI, FRITZ KREISLER
FOR TICKETS PLEASE CALL: 233-7777 OR TICKETS ON SALE AT THE ENTRANCE
ADULT $10.00
12 AND ABOVE
CHILD $5.00
AGES 5-12

Over 600 to graduate from public high schools this year

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Over 600 students from CNMI public high schools are expected to graduate from secondary education in June, based on the records of individual schools.

As of yesterday, all five public high schools on Saipan, Rota, and Tinian recorded a total of 643 potential graduates on their lists.

At the largest and oldest high school on island, Marianas High School, its acting principal Cherlyn Cabrera said all 233 seniors this year are expected to receive their high school diplomas on June 4.

The figure shows a decrease from last school year's graduating figure of 260. Cabrera said the decline was due to the fact that the senior class this school year is a little smaller than previous years.

At Kagman High School, principal Alfred Ada disclosed that potential graduates are 160 this year, also a decline from previous year which registered 180 total graduates. But Ada described the figure as the "average" number of graduating seniors each year. Diplomas will be conferred to these graduates on June 6.

Saipan Southern High School, meantime, shows a slight increase in the number of graduating students this year at 175, compared to last year's 160 students. Principal Jesse Tudela attributed the hike to the transferees from private schools as a result of economic hardship, among other reasons. Commencement ceremony is slated for them on June.

Also recording an increase of graduates this year is the Dr. Rita Hocog-Inos Jr./Sr. High School which is expected to confer diplomas to all its 43 seniors this school year.

Saipan Tribune learned that last school year, 32 students graduated from high school when the institution was still the Rota High School. Principal Sharlene Manglona said graduation is slated on June 8.

Tinian High School vice principal Eric San Nicolas told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that they are expecting all 32 seniors from the school to complete the requirements this school year. This figure shows a slight decline from last school year's 50 graduates. Diplomas will be conferred to the graduates on June 1.

CHC 1-month housing allowance finally released

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Employees of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. finally received their promised one-month housing allowance, board chair Joaquin Torres confirmed yesterday.

Torres said the housing benefit was transferred yesterday afternoon to employees' accounts. The issuance of the promised checks was supposed to come in Friday last week but was delayed because of the ongoing system upgrade at the corporation.

Hospital personnel interviewed yesterday on condition of anonymity expressed some dismay, citing that come next week, delay in housing perks will now become five months—from January to May. Benefit issued yesterday covers the month of December 2011.

A longtime nurse at the hospital shared that the amount she received yesterday will be used as partial payment for her housing expenses.

"I had to cut on almost everything just to survive. I hope the corporation will continue to pay our housing allowance, at least one month each payroll, so we can catch up also with our obligations," said said.

Each month, the corporation incurs $134,000 in paying for the housing perks of employees who were hired outside of the Commonwealth. Since the time of the public health department, single employee who was hired from off-island is provided $600 monthly housing allowance while $800 for those with families. *Saipan Tribune* learned that there are an estimated over 100 employees receiving this benefit, mostly are nurses.

Because of the scarce financial situation of the corporation, the management and the board are now looking into the following options: terminating, suspending, or cutting the housing benefit by half.

The corporation petitioned its nonresident employees for contract workers' visa, or CW, which stipulated that said housing assistance will "depend on the availability of funds."

PIC extends condolences to family of Casil

The Pacific Islands Club yesterday offered prayers and extended condolences to the family of a 4-year-old girl who passed away Monday after a near-drowning incident at PIC's swimming pool on Saturday.

PIC executive assistant Vicky Benavente said the staff and management of the PIC Saipan are all saddened by this tragedy.

"We understand this matter is still under investigation by the Department of Public Safety and therefore, comment at this time would not be appropriate," Benavente said.

Saipan Tribune also learned that the girl's mother's fiancé is indeed a lifeguard but not with PIC. The mother is pregnant. Both the mother and her fiancé were at PIC when the accident happened.

Neveah Shanae Sablan Casil had been in intensive care unit at the Commonwealth Health Center where a doctor pronounced her dead Monday at 10:03pm. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Rios, Rosario get full 4-year term at healthcare corp. board

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Two members of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board of directors will serve a full four-year term while two others were given two years during a lottery conducted Saturday by board chair Joaquin Torres.

Board members Roy Rios and Pedro Dela Cruz got the full term of service. while Torres and Anthony Aguon received two-year terms.

Public Law 16-51 established the healthcare corporation which requires seven members on its board, of which four have voting powers. The organization took over almost all the functions and responsibilities of the former Department of Public Health in October last year. It was last weekend when terms of members were finalized.

Other honorary members of the board include Anthony Raho, Dr. Jeremy Richards, and corporation chief executive officer Juan N. Babauta.

Compared to other autonomous agencies and departments, the corporation's board only serve as an "advisory council" which actions are recommended to the CEO for implementation.

During Saturday's board meeting, members agreed to undergo training that will aid them to better understand the role of an advisory board vs. governing board of directors.

Torres told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that all members are committed in fulfilling their mission and goals for the new corporation. Despite the ongoing crises—as a result of not having enough budget—Torres is optimistic that with the clear vision and direction of the board, desired progress and improvements at the public hospital will be achieved.

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

INVITATION FOR BID

(This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.)

BID SUBMISSION DATE: TUESDAY, MAY 1, 2012 * TIME: 10:00 AM
NMHC IFB 2012- 007
"BUILDING MAINTENANCE OF NMHC'S HOUSING UNITS IN ROTA"

Proposal packets will be available on April 9, 2012, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, or at the Field Office in Songsong Village, Rota, during regular business hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday through Friday except CNMI holidays. Inquiries may be directed to Ms. Jocelyn S. Kaipat, Office Manager, at telephone numbers. (670) 234-6866/7689 during regular business hours or Mr. Barrie C. Toves, Rota Field Office Representative, at (670) 532-9410.

A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, April 13, 2012, at the NMHC Field Office located in Sinapalo, Rota, and all interested bidders will be given the opportunity to visit the project site, familiarize themselves with the required work and ask questions regarding the project. Attendance at this conference and site visit are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing to Mr. Jesse S. Palacios, Acting Corporate Director of the NMHC, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, or faxed to (670) 234-9021 no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, Tuesday, April 17, 2012.

This project is paid for and funded 100% by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that is administered by the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) under its Section 8 Multi-Family Program for the Island of Rota.

/s/ Marcie M. Tomokane
Board Chairwoman & Contracting Officer

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Division of Procurement & Supply

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-12-017

FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE AUDIT FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2012

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Office of the Executive Director, is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms to perform a financial and compliance audit of the CUC for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012. The audit must be performed in compliance with the latest revision of the following guidelines:

1. OMB Circular A-133
2. Standard for Audits of Government Organization, Programs, Activities and Function, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States
3. Audits of States and Local Government Units, Industry Audit guide issued by the American Institute of Public Accountants (AICPA)

The date of contract award will be no later than June 30, 2012. Audit work shall commence thereafter and must be completed by January 31, 2013.

The RFP Package and Scope-of-Work may be obtained, upon receipt of a non-refundable deposit from the CUC Treasury Section by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $ 100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the proposals must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-12-017, Financial and Compliance Audit for Fiscal Year Ending September 2012"to Mr. Michael Pai, Public Auditor, Office of the Public Auditor, 1236 Yap Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST), local time, on May 29, 2012**. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All inquiries regarding the RFP must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on May 14, 2012 to Mr. Michael Pai, Public Auditor, Office of the Public Auditor, 1236 Yap Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950; Mr. Charles Warren, CUC Chief Financial Officer, at email address charles_warren@cucgov.org; and Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer at email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reasons and to waive any defects in any proposals if, in its sole opinion, to do so will be in the best interest of the CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

14th
TASTE OF THE
MARIANAS
MAY 2012
INTERNATIONAL FOOD FESTIVAL AND BEER GARDEN
AMERICAN MEMORIAL PARK
MAY 5, 12, 19 & 26, 2012
Saturday, May 5, 2012
6:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Opening Remarks/Ribbon Cutting Ceremony/Joe T. Limes (CNMI/U.S. National Anthem)/Lion Dance
6:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Awadori Team
7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Pacific Flower
8:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Uncle Ben's Music & Dance
9:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. Inatua
9:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. Tipi Yeew Dancers
Food Concessionaires
1. Fiesta Resort & Spa
2. Hafa Adai Beach Hotel
3. Hyatt Regency Hotel Saipan
4. Pacific Islands Club
5. Canton Restaurant
6. Furusato Restaurant
7. Sierra Pearl Shakes
8. Capricciosa/Tony Roma's
9. D'Elegance Restaurant
10. Herman's Modern Bakery
11. Hula Girl/3's
12. Thai House Restaurant
13. Poon's Restaurant
14. Tropical Chill
15. Coral Ocean Point Resort
Beer Garden Vendors
Pacific Trading Company (PTC)
Marianas Pacific Distributors Incorporated (MARPAC)
Northern Marianas Bartender Association (NMBA)
For more information, please contact the Marianas Visitors Authority Headquarters at telephone numbers 1 (670) 664-3200/01 or visit the website at www.mymarianas.com
Saipan Tinian Rota
2012 CNMI TOURISM MONTH
"Tourism is Everybody's Business"
Proclamation Signing
April 26, 2012
Lt. Governor Eloy Inos will officially declare the month of May 2012 as CNMI Tourism Month with a formal proclamation signing ceremony at 1:30 p.m. at the Office of the Governor on Capitol Hill. The Marianas Visitors Authority and our industry partners invite the public to participate in the activities of the Tourism Month celebration.
"Hafa Adai Tirow" Spirit Island Wear Fridays
Every Friday in May is Hafa Adai Tirow Spirit Island Wear day! Show your island pride and culture by wearing island attire or local traditional wear. Post your photos on Facebook at "Hafa Adai Tirow Spirit Island Wear of the Northern Mariana Islands" and get a chance to win Taste of the Marianas tokens and a Tourism Month t-shirt; one lucky winner per week will be chosen from all who post photos.
"My Marianas" Community Outreach Presentation
Get up-to-date on the latest industry trends and upcoming tourism events during this picturesque slideshow on Saturday evenings at the Taste of the Marianas. Tourism Month informational packages will also be available on-site.
On-the-Street Interviews
MVA turns the spotlight on you as random community members are given an opportunity to share their views on various tourism topics in the Tourism Tuesday feature of the Saipan Tribune.
Radio Tourism Trivia
Call in with the correct answer for your chance to win tokens for the Taste of the Marianas and Tourism Month T-shirts. "Did You Know?" and "Fun Facts about Tourism in the Northern Marianas" will be aired regularly throughout the month on Power 99 (99.5 FM), KZMI (103.9 FM) and KKMP (1440 AM and 92.1 FM).
Taste of the Marianas Competitions
Hot Dog Eating Competition
1st Heat 8:00pm
(Under 18)
2nd Heat 9:00pm
(Over 18)

SCC workshop for graduating seniors

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will be hosting its 2012 High School Senior "I'm Graduating Now—Now What ?" workshop this Saturday, April 28, from 10am to 2pm, at the Saipan Grand Hotel.

Corporate executives Jim Arenovski, Delta Management; Kanae Quinn, Pacific Islands Club, Vince Seman, Tan Holdings; and Kyle Calabrese, staff for U.S. Delegate Kilili Sablan, will be presenting information to all high school students attending on how to address work place realities after graduation.

Registration begins at 9:30am, with presentations beginning at 100am, for the following:

■ What's Next After High School—A look at careers.

■ I Have to Live on That ?—Personal budgeting.

■ Oh No, I Have an Interview, Now What ?—Resume writing and interviewing with confidence.

■ I Can't Come to Work Today—Balancing work and family expectations.

■ I'm Not Sure What to Say—Communication skills for success.

There will be a program assessment following the presentations, and certificates of completion will be awarded. Refreshments will be served for the high school seniors.

SCC reminded the high school seniors, as well, that the deadline for submission of applications for the annual SCC $2,000 scholarship awards is this Friday, April 27, 2012 at 5:00pm at the SCC offices in Garapan.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce, founded in 1959 and incorporated in 1976, is the largest private business organization in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Chamber works to promote and protect business, economic and civic interests, and the general welfare of our islands. ***(SCC)***

USCIS info session today

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services will host two information sessions for the public today, April 26. USCIS District Director David Gulick will provide updates and clarifications. This will be followed by a question and answer session.

Individual case inquiries cannot be addressed in this forum. USCIS has an email available for such inquiries. CNMI.CSC@uscis.dhs.gov

What: Immigration Information Session

Who: USCIS District Director David Gulick

Where: Multipurpose Center, Susupe

When: Thursday, April 26, 2012

■ 9am to 10:30 am

■ 3pm to 4:30 pm

USCIS is planning more sessions next week and we will release details as soon as the times and venues are set. ***(USCIS)***

Notice of Zoning Board Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Zoning Board will be held on Thursday, May 3, 2012 at 5:00 PM, Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten DanDan Commercial Bldg., Saipan
(Tel: 234-9661 • Fax: 234-9666 • e-mail: www.zoning.gov.mp)

A. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of April 4, 2012 minutes
5. Public Comments *(not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings)*

B. Public Hearings
1. Conditional Use Application #2011-3397: Mr. John Hosono of Top Shot Playstation is proposing to operate paintball games, an Outdoor Amusement game, within a portion of 48,000 square meters of vacant land. This proposal will be located in Sadog Tasi, below Capitol Hill, on track #22616 REM. This area is zoned as Rural Zoning District and may be accessed from the Sadog Tasi Mobil gas station on Isa Drive or the Puerto Rico Shell gas station on Chalan Pale Arnold road.

C. Communications/ Reports

D. Old Business.
1. Update on the proposed Saipan Zoning Law of 2012

E. New Business
1. Office operations report
2. Appointment of new Zoning Administrator

F. Executive (Closed) Session.

G. Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting, Adjourn.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact Therese T. Ogumoro, Acting Zoning Administrator, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING
for
Top Shot Playstation

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Mr. John Hosono of Top Shot Playstation is proposing to operate paintball games, an Outdoor Amusement game, within a portion of 48,000 square meters of vacant land. This proposal will be located in Sadog Tasi, below Capitol Hill, on track #22616 REM. This area is zoned as Rural Zoning District and may be accessed from the Sadog Tasi Mobil gas station on Isa Drive or the Puerto Rico Shell gas station on Chalan Pale Arnold road.

Date: **May 03, 2012, Thursday**
Time: **5:00 pm**
Place: **Zoning Board Conference Room, 2nd flr, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan**

The above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the projects may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments shall be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office no later than 4:30pm, May 02, 2012. Written comments may also be submitted via email to therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 or delivered to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Saipan Zoning Law of 2008).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Coastal Resources Management
Caller Box 10007, Springs Plaza, Middle Road, Saipan, MP 96950
Website: www.crm.gov.mp
Tel. (670) 664-8300 • Fax (670) 664-8315

NOTICE OF APPLICATION
April 26 , 2012

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE CRM OFFICES:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Mini Max Scuba	02/02/2012 S/TLRm-2012-X-011	Scuba Diving	Saipan & Tinian	Lagoon & Reef APC	Under Review
2. Sea Lago Inc.	02/06/2012 SPIm-2012-X-012	Dry Dock	Able Dock	Ports & Industrial APC	Approved (02/06/2012)*
3. DTC Saipan	02/07/2012 SSm-2012-X-013	Photographic Activities	Shoreline Areas	Shoreline Areas APC	Approved (02/07/2012)*
4. Windsurfing Saipan	02/07/2012 SLRm-2012-X-014	Windsurfing Competition	Garapan Lagoon	Lagoon & Reef APC	Approved (02/07/2012)*
5. Hwang Yang Jack	02/08/2012 SPIm-2012-X-015	Dry Dock	Able Dock	Ports & Industrial APC	Approved (02/08/2012)*
6. DCCA Arts & Crafts	02/09/12 SSm-2012-X-016	31st Flame Tree Festival	Civic Centers	Shoreline APC	Approved (03/05/2012)*
7. Mr. Diego C. Blanco	02/21/2012 SSm-2012-X-017	Beach Bar & Grill	Behind Fiesta Resort & Spa	Shoreline APC	Approved(02/23/2012)*

Publication of the above list is in accordance with CRM Regulations, which require all permit applications to be published in a local newspaper within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the CRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the CRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APC's) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local CRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a CRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the CRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the CRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the CRM Regulations.

Flashback
A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

April 26, 2000

Public backs 10 percent budget increase for PSS

The public yesterday expressed support to the Legislature's proposed initiative to increase 10 percent the Public School's System's yearly appropriation from its current 15 percent share in the CNMI government's budget. At a public hearing by the House Committee on Education yesterday, Education Commissioner Rita H. Inos offered her support for the legislation. She cited that increased revenues for PSS would enable it to better achieve its goals and missions as established by law. Board of Education Vice Chair Roman C. Benavente, speaking on speaking on behalf of BOE Chair Frances H. Diaz, also expressed support for the initiative.

Lack of support undermines program funding

Board of Education Vice Chair Roman C. Benavente yesterday shared sentiments on what he perceived as a reason why many education programs in the CNMI, as well as in the states, continue to be underfunded. Mr. Benavente said the lack of funding on education initiatives remain due to the fact that majority of the Commonwealth's leaders enroll their children in private schools. "Let's face facts. . .The [leaders'] basic interest is not there," said Mr. Benavente. As a result, prominent leaders tend to develop a sense of ownership for the institution by which they placed their long-term investment on, according to him.

April 26, 2001

Aircon woes sending students out of school

Instead of cool air comforting students inside their classrooms at Kagman Elementary School, the facilities' airconditioning units have been spewing out fiberglass particles and dust. This despite the school replacing the 150 or so airconditioning system filters and repairing fiberglass insulation that had peeled away, which were recommended a month ago and were expected to alleviate the problem. The school's principal, Ignacia Demapan, revealed that since the airconditioning woes started, the school has experienced constant absenteeism of students due to illness. She also said that a number of children have also complained of headaches, dizziness, eyes hurting, skin itchiness and shortness of breath.

CPA confident on Mandarin's return

The Commonwealth Ports Authority expressed hopes Mandarin Airlines will resume its Saipan-Taipei air transport services after the scheduled three-month suspension. Executive Director Carlos H. Salas said CPA is confident Mandarin Air will stand firm on its pledge to resume the aborted Saipan-Taipei flights after it completed aircraft maintenance procedures. Mr. Salas made this statement despite the absence of any official confirmation from the Taipei-based airline company regarding previous plans to resume CNMI operations by June, when the three-month flight suspension expires.

April 26, 2002

Government steps up anti-crime efforts

The executive branch has offered to sit with crime-solving agents every week in May to tackle solutions pertaining to the Commonwealth's disturbing crime rate, the Department of Public Safety disclosed yesterday. DPS spokesperson Lt. Pete C. Muña said that Governor's Office has made arrangements with some police investigators to discuss crime-solving, as part of the administration's efforts to support Police Month, celebrated in May. He [the governor] would like to meet with them every Friday in the month of May to discuss about that. Maybe talk to the public about it. He wants to get involved in asking the public for assistance to solve these crimes, said Muña.

DOLI bars employer from hiring nonresident worker

A manpower company owner who fled Saipan and settled on Guam was permanently barred by the Department of Labor and Immigration from hiring nonresident workers, after ignoring administrative proceedings at the department. Administrative hearing officer Vicente C. Seman ruled against Frank P. Sablan of As Teo, owner of the Christopher Enterprises. The complainant, Filipina worker Carina C. Pagtalunan, was granted transfer relief, allowing her to work for a new employer. "The respondent [Sablan] had moved to Guam and had detached himself from any responsibility from the complainant for whom he had contractual and statutory responsibility," Seman said. Despite this, the Division of Labor served Sablan with a notice of appearance for investigation. The division was also demanding from Sablan employment documents of Pagtalunan.

MEET THE MMAC TEAMS

Team Saipan Health/St. Jude Renal Care

MAC Committee's note: As we mark the 10th anniversary of the Marianas March Against Cancer, the 2012 MMAC committee would like to honor and recognize the efforts of our teams for their untiring support in the fight against cancer.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Team Saipan Health/St. Jude Renal Care CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

All it took was one staffer to take interest in participating in the Marianas March Against Cancer and soon after, the Team Saipan Health/St. Jude Renal Care was formed and has been taking part in the annual event for three years now.

The team noted that "cancer" is a word that's neither easy to say nor hear. "Who knew that one word could change your whole world? All the uncertainties, all the unknown and all the fear is now a reality. Your body becomes numb and your heart drops."

The team added, "Cancer is life-changing and individuals who are fighting the battle need plenty of support," MMAC provides funding for Commonwealth Cancer Association who provides ample support to not just the individual fighting cancer but even the family. Cancer has impacted our team on a personal level. We have survivors on our team and have lost some to cancer. Why not support a cause that supports our community?"

Their favorite part of the MMAC event, Team Saipan Health/St. Jude Renal Care said, is the survivor walk wherein several individuals who battled cancer, along with their families, walk around the Hopwood Jr. High School track to recognize their courage in the fight and inspire hope to those who are undergoing treatment.

"It's very emotional and powerful," said the team.

For this year, Team Saipan Health/St. Jude Renal Care said they have great plans for their tent but did not elaborate. "Let's just say it's going to be bright and very colorful."

Team Saipan Health/St. Jude Renal Care's advice to those who have considered forming a MMAC team is, "It is a lot of work but do it! The funds raised go to a great cause and stay on island. You are helping individuals who are fighting cancer in the CNMI."

Island Apparel named 2012 MMAC major sponsor

Island Apparel is named major sponsor of the 2012 Marianas March Against Cancer after providing financial support to the event committee through the purchase of T-shirts for teams, survivors, committee members, and volunteers.

Major sponsorship title is bestowed on corporations that donate $1,000 to $2,999 in cash or services.

"On behalf of the MMAC committee, we extend our sincere gratitude to the staff and management of Island Apparel for their support in the fight against cancer," said overall committee chair Catherine Attao-Toves. "Island Apparel has been providing annual support to the MMAC for years and we acknowledge their generosity."

MMAC is the largest cancer fundraiser in the CNMI and the signature fundraising activity of the Commonwealth Cancer Association.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the annual event slated for April 27 to 28, from 6pm to 6am at Hopwood Jr. High School field in Chalan Piao.

"We'd like to remind the community that the annual MMAC is this Friday and we are inviting everyone to come down and enjoy a night of great food and drinks, live entertainment and fun games all in support of the fight against cancer. We have 16 teams working hard to raise funds to fight this dreadful affliction so come down and show your support," said Attao-Toves.

For more information, call 285-1828, email attaoc@yahoo.com or visit www.ccamarianas.org. ***(Clarissa V. David)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Happy birthday Clayton Brett.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Happy birthday Tita!

Wishing you a day of sunny as your smile, as warm as your heart, a day as wonderful as you. Happy birthday to our mother Juana . We love you much! From Husband John, Eloise, Eric, Jr., Erica, Erin, VJ, Vinesha, Ben, and family.

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INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW12-IFB-005

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids proposal for the ***Construction of Brown Tree Snake Barrier, Songsong Village Rota***, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after April 19, 2012 at the Department of Public Works, Technical Services Division, 1353 Mednilla Avenue-Capital Hill, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of One Hundred Fifty Dollars ($150.00) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division. All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. ***Preference is available to US Citizens as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by PublicLaw 15-118, and must be submitted with the BID of preference is claimed.***

There will be a ***Mandatory Pre-bid Conference*** for this project on April 30, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. local time at the Project Site, West Harbor Compound, Songsong Village, Rota. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on May 02, 2012 to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director, Technical Services Division**, DPW Bldg. #1353 Mednilla Avenue, or fax to (670) 234-3547.

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW12-IFB-005"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time May 15, 2012. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time May 15, 2012, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than May 15, 2012, and must be received no later than May 24, 2012. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, May 29, 2012, However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. local time, on May 17, 2012.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond In the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Island, and

b) Under penalty of perjury, a certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash
2) US Government Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payments or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond

Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred Eighty (180) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at One Hundred Dollars **(US $100.00)** per calendar day for delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ VICENTE B.CASTRO
Acting Secretary of Public Works

/s/ ARNOLD I. PALACIOS
Secretary of Land and Natural Resources

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director Procurement and Supply

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Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM, Plaintiff,	**Civil Action No. 10-0173-CV**
vs.	**NOTICE OF SALE**
FRANCISCO Q. GUERRERO and BARBARA P. GUERRERO, Defendants.	

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order Granting Writ of Execution issued by the Court in this matter on November 30, 2011, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth herein below, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in the following property: Lot 008 H 19, containing an area of 226 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 008 H 00, the original of which was recorded on March 1, 1971, as Document No. 699 at Land Registry, Saipan. **This location is identified as the former Tapo Shopping building along Beach Road across from the former Pacific Gardenia Building including the commercial building.** The lot is located in Chalan Kanoa, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on June 7, 2012, at the hour of 10:00 am, at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public and will be held in reserve.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
   a) Withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
   b) To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c) To reject any and all bids.
2. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, PO Box 5003758 CK, Saipan, MP 9695, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749.
3. Deposit; Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to the Bank of Guam.
4. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and the Bank of Guam reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct an enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
5. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 28th day of March, 2012.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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MEMBER
The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Disband Haiti's rogue army

With the beginning of hurricane season only 40 days off, Haitians should be worried about protection from the annual onslaught of stormy weather, but instead another crisis is shaking the Caribbean's perennially troubled country: A rogue force of "paramilitaries" that neither the government of President Michel Martelly nor anyone else is eager to confront has become a dangerous menace to public order, raising questions about who's in charge.

For several weeks, the presence of this unofficial army has been hard to miss. In February, they occupied abandoned army barracks, settling in without much objection from any authority. Gradually, they have become bolder and bolder. They paraded around Cap-Haitien and Port-au-Prince earlier this month on Haiti's traditional Constitution Day, and last week as many as 50 members, some of them armed, disrupted Parliament, forcing lawmakers to suspend business for the day.

The force is said to number anywhere from 2,000 to 3,500 mostly young men and women, apparently led by ex-army officers. Officially, Haiti has had no army since it was disbanded years ago by former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide at U.S. insistence because it was a persistent threat to civilian control. But many of those officers never resigned themselves to being out of power.

Early on, the force was seen primarily as a nuisance, a distraction from the business of getting Haiti back on its feet after the disastrous 2010 earthquake. But the intrusion of the paramilitaries in Parliament should end all hope that they will just fade away.

Although the force is said to be only "lightly armed," it poses a threat to the government because no one knows who's behind them or what their intentions are. Haitians and members of the international community working to rebuild the country are asking whether they represent a force unto themselves more powerful than Mr. Martelly's government.

All of this comes at a time when there is no effective government in place. Former Prime Minister Garry Conille, who had the support of the international community, resigned on Feb. 24 under pressure from Mr. Martelly. He remains in office until a successor is ratified by Parliament, but without effective authority. At the same time, 10 members of the Senate will see their terms expire in May, but no date has been set for a new election because of the endemic political bickering that makes Haiti a nearly ungovernable state.

The U.N. security force in Haiti issued a statement after the caper in Parliament deploring it as "an unacceptable act of intimidation" and put its own military patrols in place to prevent a repetition. But it failed to pursue the outlaw force and has refused to take responsibility for putting an end to the threat it represents.

Similarly, Mr. Martelly _ from a hospital in Miami where he was said to be recovering from a pulmonary ailment _ issued a statement declaring that "the formation of a new public force can only be done in an orderly and disciplined fashion and in observance of the laws in force."

That sends a mixed signal. Mr. Martelly must clearly and unequivocally label them outlaws and ask for help from the U.N. force and from the United States, which has also failed to speak up in defense of Haiti's stability.

The paramilitaries have to be disarmed and disbanded, and their leaders arrested for posing a threat to public order. Haiti has enough problems getting the country back together without having to deal with a rogue army in its midst.

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US must do more to help Iraqis who helped us

By TRUDY RUBIN
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the Philadelphia Inquirer.

Long after the last U.S. soldier left Iraq, thousands of Iraqis who worked for our military and civilians are still living in dangerous limbo, waiting for promised U.S. visas that haven't arrived.

Radical Shiite militias are threatening to kill these Iraqis because they helped Americans. I just learned of one case in which a medical syringe and a jar of concentrated sulfuric acid were left at the Baghdad door of a former Iraqi interpreter for U.S. forces. The accompanying note said the man's face and body would soon be washed with the acid.

Even if this man had the funds to flee Iraq (which he doesn't), he and his family are stuck there: The U.S. embassy has been holding their passports for the past year for visa processing, as the process drags on and on and on.

The blockage is due in large part to new security checks instituted in 2009 after two Iraqi refugees in Kentucky (who never worked for U.S. forces) were accused of plotting to help terrorists.

Top U.S. officials say they are working hard to speed up the visa process and are nearing a breakthrough. But, while the numbers show a slight uptick, they've still barely budged.

Vice President Biden's top national security adviser, Tony Blinken, recently told me after a talk at the Center for American Progress, a Washington think tank: "We owe these people. We have a debt to these people. They put their lives on the line for the United States."

Blinken said that, over the past two to three months, he and his colleagues, led by Deputy National Security Adviser Denis McDonough and counterterrorism adviser John Brennan, have spent "literally hours in the windowless situation room with all the agencies, working through [the Iraq visa] problem.

"What I can tell you today is I think we have now a way forward that will show demonstrable progress in bringing more people into the United states while making sure our security is upheld," Blinken said.

No doubt he and his colleagues are sincere in their efforts, but the numbers are still stuck.

Consider this: In 2008, Congress mandated that 25,000 special immigrant visas (known as SIVs) for Iraqis who helped us, over a period of five years; fewer than 4,500 have been issued. According to State Department figures, 719 Iraqis arrived on SIV visas in fiscal year 2011, and 569 in the first six months of fiscal year 2012 (not including dependents). That's an uptick, but not a breakthrough.

"The SIV program has not delivered," says Bob Carey, vice president for resettlement policy at the International Rescue Committee. "There is an enormous backlog of people whose lives are at risk."

Indeed the number of desperate applicants remains in the thousands. Many Iraqis who helped Americans have chosen to apply for U.S. visas through another special refugee program. As of last July, there were 39,000 Iraqis on that waiting list. In the first six months of FY 2012, only 2,500 were admitted.

And most applicants have been waiting one to three years.

So what's gone wrong? Why can't we meet our moral obligation to Iraqis who risked their lives to help us?

My answer: We have a security bureaucracy that's gone bonkers. In the post-9/11 era, under the Department of Homeland Security, we've set up so many overlapping layers and redundancies that it's almost impossible to navigate the system. "One agency doesn't necessarily recognize another's security checks" says Carey. "Often one check will expire before the next is completed."

Take the case of Ali M., who worked for the U.S. Army from 2009-2011. He's been waiting more than a year for his security clearance. Because of the wait, his U.S. embassy-required medical exam "expired" and he had to take it again, paying another $400. Meantime, he is living in hiding, under death threat, afraid even to visit his wife and year-old daughter.

"I risked my life to help the U.S. Army and now you are selling me to the terrorist why?" Ali e-mailed me. "We just want the U.S. government to help us like they promised."

Or Ali H., who has been waiting for more than three years, did his medical exam three times, and fingerprints twice. The embassy gave him a date of March 8, 2011, on which he was supposed to travel, but on that day he was told more security checks were needed. He had sold his business and his car, and is running out of money.

"We are threatened with death every moment," Ali wrote me. "Is this what we deserve because we worked with U.S. forces. Please. Please. Help us."

That will require the White House to tame the Kafka-eque Homeland Security bureaucracy, something that still hasn't happened and probably needs presidential intervention. In the meantime, thousands of Iraqis suffer in limbo and America's credibility takes a further beating.

"If we don't (move on this) it will have a chilling effect on the willingness of people around the world to work with our missions," Blinken admitted. He's so right.

Tet '68, Kabul '12: We still don't get it

By NICK TURSE
Los Angeles Times

Nick Turse is the associate editor of TomDispatch.com, where a longer version of this piece appears.

Recently, after Afghan militants unleashed sophisticated, synchronized attacks across Afghanistan, including in the capital, Kabul, the Pentagon was quick to emphasize what hadn't happened.

"I'm not minimizing the seriousness of this, but this was in no way akin to the Tet offensive," said George Little, the Pentagon's top spokesman. "We are looking at suicide bombers, RPG (rocket-propelled grenade), mortar fire, etc. This was not a large-scale offensive sweeping into Kabul or other parts of the country."

Defense Secretary Leon Panetta weighed in similarly.

"There were," he insisted, "no tactical gains here. These are isolated attacks that are done for symbolic purposes, and they have not regained any territory."

Even granting the need to spin the assaults as failures, the official American reaction to the coordinated attacks reveals a fundamental misunderstanding of guerrilla warfare in general and of the type waged by the Haqqani network in particular. It's a lesson the United States should have learned decades ago.

But more than 40 years after the Vietnam War's Tet offensive, after more than a decade of war in Afghanistan, the U.S. military still doesn't get it.

When Vietnamese revolutionary forces launched the 1968 Tet offensive, attacking the South Vietnamese capital of Saigon as well as four other major cities and nearly 150 other sites, they were hoping to spark a general uprising. What they did instead was give the lie to months of optimistic talk by American officials about tremendous strategic gains and a foreseeable victory.

Just months before Tet, the top U.S. commander in Vietnam, Gen. William Westmoreland, had claimed there was a successful end in sight for America's war. So how, then, were the Viet Cong able to launch such a widespread assault?

In the course of the offensive, some 58,000 revolutionary fighters were killed, and their advance was beaten back. But guerrillas the world over grasped the lesson of Tet: It is crucial in a guerrilla war to highlight your enemy's vulnerabilities, its helplessness to stop you _ and it doesn't have to take 58,000 lives to do that.

The Haqqanis lost only 39 in their recent attacks. And they demonstrated conclusively that they are living in 2012, in global war-making terms, while the Pentagon, in a sense, is still stuck in the mind-set of Saigon, 1968.

Panetta noted that the Haqqani fighters had not taken territory. But that wasn't the point. What territory, after all, could the Haqqani militants have been out to regain by attacking Kabul's heavily defended diplomatic quarter? The German Embassy? And then what would they have done? While Panetta at least granted that the attacks were geared toward symbolic effect, he remained strangely focused on their tactical significance.

As in Vietnam, the U.S. military in Afghanistan regularly attempts to prove that it's winning via metrics. We get reports of enemy captures and body counts, as if the conflict can be won on points, like a boxing match.

In the Vietnam years, Westmoreland and other top U.S. officials were forever seeking an elusive "crossover point" _ the moment when their Vietnamese foes would be losing more fighters than they could replace and so would have to capitulate. America would win by fighting a war of attrition.

But that didn't work in Vietnam, and it's not working in Afghanistan. More than a decade after U.S. forces swept into Kabul, what began as a ragtag remnant insurgency has grown stronger and continues to vex the most destructively powerful, best-funded military on the planet. All of America's tactical gains and captured territory, especially in the Taliban heartland of Helmand province in southern Afghanistan, haven't brought the country anywhere near victory.

As the Haqqanis clearly meant to underscore with their recent coordinated attacks, America's trillion-dollar military, in conjunction with hundreds of thousands of allied Afghan security forces, still is incapable of fully securing even a small "green zone" in the heart of the Afghan capital, much less the rest of the country.

The conflict in Afghanistan began with its American commander declaring, "We don't do body counts," but a quick glance at recent U.S. military press releases touting supposed high-value kills or large insurgent body counts indicates otherwise.

As in Vietnam, the United States is once again betting on a war of attrition. But the enemy hasn't bought in. Instead of slugging it out toe to toe, in large suicidal offensives, the Haqqanis and their allies have planned a savvy, conservative campaign meant to save fighters and resources while sending an unmistakable message to the Afghan population and the American public.

The attrition of U.S. support for the war is unmistakable. As late as 2009, according to a poll by ABC News and the Washington Post, 56 percent of Americans believed the Afghan war was still worth fighting. Just days before the Haqqanis' coordinated attacks, that number had dropped to 35 percent. Over the same span, the number of Americans who are convinced the war is not worth fighting jumped from 41 percent to 60 percent. The latest Haqqani offensive is likely to reinforce these trends.

Letters to the Editor

To Tan Francisco R. Agulto

I differ on your opinion that we were seeking ministerial assistance from the Honorable Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan. Some of my fellow Marines when I was in the U.S. Marine Corp paid the ultimate sacrifice by defending the United States Constitution, so people like you and I can be afforded the privileges of being a United States citizen.

One of our privileges is being represented in Washington, D.C. We were exercising our privileges as United States citizen from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and it is up to each one of us to utilize our rights privileges.

We wonder at times if we were asking for ministerial assistance from the U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer (D-California) when one of our constituents (Hmong Family) in California was about to lose their house, cars, and life savings in the bank, because the Internal Revenue Services was in the process of putting a lean on their assets for erroneously collecting Earn Income Credit for over five years.

The Honorable Barbara Boxer put a stop for the IRS to collect its lean from our constituents and we negotiated for the family to pay back the IRS in a payment plan. Maybe we were asking for ministerial assistance when we contacted the Honorable George Randanovich (U.S. Congress-R-California) in the past for his assistance relating to our clients immigration status (Refugee Status) and to prevent the so call Immigration Naturalization Services from deporting our clients back to Laos for his/her negligent to update or upgrade his/her temporary stay in the United States.

When the United States Congress legislate to stop giving the United States alien residents the privilege of getting welfare over a decade ago, maybe we were asking for ministerial assistance when we went state to state and to Washington, D.C. lobbying for the United States Congress to exempted the Hmong Community (they fought with the Central Intelligent Agency against the Communist Pathet Lao in Laos during the 60s and early 70s) from the legislation.

The Non-Profit Organizations (501 C4) throughout the United States collective afforded the Hmong People the exemption to continue receiving their welfare benefit. The information technology that you claim that can solve our predicaments instantly is very much untrue. We always opted to request assistance from our elected officials, because it is a given privileges for each one of us, either we are United State Citizen or not. It is not a bother of our congressional office in D.C., but we mare exercising our constitutional right.

Mr. Agulto, it was insignificant on your opinion that Mr. Sablan should not take the time to entertain our predicament and we strongly disagree on your notion. If the Honorable Sablan should have not entertained us, we will be very vocal on his inactions. We guess that your priorities in your life is very much not the same as our priorities. Your opinion on such matter is acknowledged, but we are group of people who do things differently in our life and we followed what is good for our people as a whole. Step Uncle (based on my elders), you mentioned that you were responding to U.S. Delegate Kilili's challenge and we respect what you said. We are a believer of not fixing anything that is not broken. When I was in the United States Marine, I (Non Commission Officer in-charge of the 100 hours inspection shop—Phase Shop) always instill to my fellow Marines the notion that do not worked on anything that is not broken on our aircraft being inspected under my supervision. We can relate to such predicament to Honorable Sablan's performance in Washington. D.C. and we do not need to replace him for he is doing a good job. You stated, Think of it this way, and minds like that of Segundo Castro would be frustrated and disenfranchised because the reality in the games of politics in the U.S. Congress is not for the elementary observer.

Wow, we were very ashamed of your assumption of us, but again life must move on and we have no need to prove our political experience in the United States in the CNMI to anyone. You will be surprised how knowledgeable we are in the games of politics in the United States Congress, the state governments, and we used it to the fullest. Any actions or inactions within the United States Congress, state governments, or local governments there will be reactions. Uncle Pete and Former U.S. Congressman Pambo should know that by now, their inaction in the past with our constituents (United States/Hmong) and the CNMI) had cost them for us not to vote for them during the first CNMI Election for the United States Delegate Seat to the U.S. Congress and Pambos 2006 re-election bid for U.S. Congress in the State of California. We the people easily forget good deeds, but we will never forget bad deeds for life.

Segundo Castro
Lubbock, Texas

1 in 88!

This is the new number from a study in 2008 that the U.S. Center for Disease Control (CDC) has released on the number of 8-year-old children living with Autism Spectrum Disorder. See this website for more: http://www.cdc.gov/Features/CountingAutism/

All over the world, it is happening. On April 1st (2nd on Saipan) the whole world celebrated World Autism Day. A day for the whole world to take notice, pause and learn more about Autism. According to the Autism Research Centre in Cambridge University in the UK, "the number of children with autism has risen 12-fold in the past 30 years and may be 50 per cent higher than previously suspected…" For more, visit: http://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/health-and-families/health-news/autism-study-finds-12fold-rise-in-cases-1692556.html

In Australia ABC reported "Australian officials currently estimate that about one in 160 children are diagnosed with autism, but findings from two new studies suggest it is much more common." See this address for more: http://www.abc.net.au/news/2009-07-23/studies-show-increase-in-autism-cases/1364600

Autism is marked by the lack of communication and socialization ability. Autismspectrum.org of Australia defines Autism as follows: "Autism spectrum disorders (ASDs) are lifelong developmental disabilities characterised by marked difficulties in social interaction, impaired communication, restricted and repetitive interests and behaviours and sensory sensitivities.

The word 'spectrum' is used because the range and severity of the difficulties people with an ASD experience can vary widely. ASDs include autistic disorder, Asperger's disorder and pervasive developmental disorder – not otherwise specified, which is also known as atypical autism. Sometimes the word "autism" is used to refer to all ASDs." Visit this site for more: http://www.autismspectrum.org.au/a2i1i1l237l113/what-is-autism.htm

According to the Autism Society of America, it is the world's fastest growing developmental disability. People on the Autism Spectrum Disorder may exhibit the following behaviors:

- not understand what you say
- appear deaf
- be unable to speak or speak with difficulty
- engage in repetitive behaviors
- act upset for no apparent reason
- appear insensitive to pain
- appear anxious or nervous
- dart away from you unexpectedly
- engage in self-stimulating behaviors (i.e., hand flapping or rocking)

So much research is put into understanding it, but nothing certain as far as what causes it or a cure for it.

In the CNMI, the most recent numbers reported out of our Special Education Program states that of the 918 students with disabilities in the Special Education program, 76 of them are students with Autism.

This is why the Autism Society of the CNMI or ASCNMI, Developmental Disabilities Council or DDC, University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities or UCEDD, The Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems, Incorporated or NMPASI, and The CNMI Special Education Program partner up and cost share to bring to our people more information every April on Autism.

Please support Autism Awareness Month and spread the word about Autism in the CNMI. For more on this please contact me at NMPASI at (670) 235-7273 or 7274, TTY at 7278, Fax at 7275 or online at www.nmpasi.org.

Autism Conferences will be held on Rota, Tinian and Saipan during this Month, so please take part and become aware so that we as a community can include our folks with Autism in all aspects of life here in our beautiful islands.

Thomas M. Thornburgh
Autism Awareness Month Planner

Florida's loss is Saipan's gain

I wasn't sure if your publication has recently done a story on one of Saipan's newest citizens, and employee of the United States Department of Agriculture. His name is Kendal Hicks and Mr. Hicks has recently accepted the position of District Conservationist on the island of Saipan.

My family and I have had the privilege of knowing Kendal and his family for many years. His recent move from the state of Florida to Saipan has been an exciting adventure. The farming community in the SWFL region will truly miss such a dedicated professional. I'm certain his contribution to the island of Saipan and its farmers/farming community will be one the citizens of the island will appreciate.

I wanted to be able to provide you with the information and give you the opportunity to meet Mr. Hicks. Thank you for your time and attention to the request. We enjoy reading about your island via your web publication. Keep up the good work.

M. Clark
Via email

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Light and variable winds.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

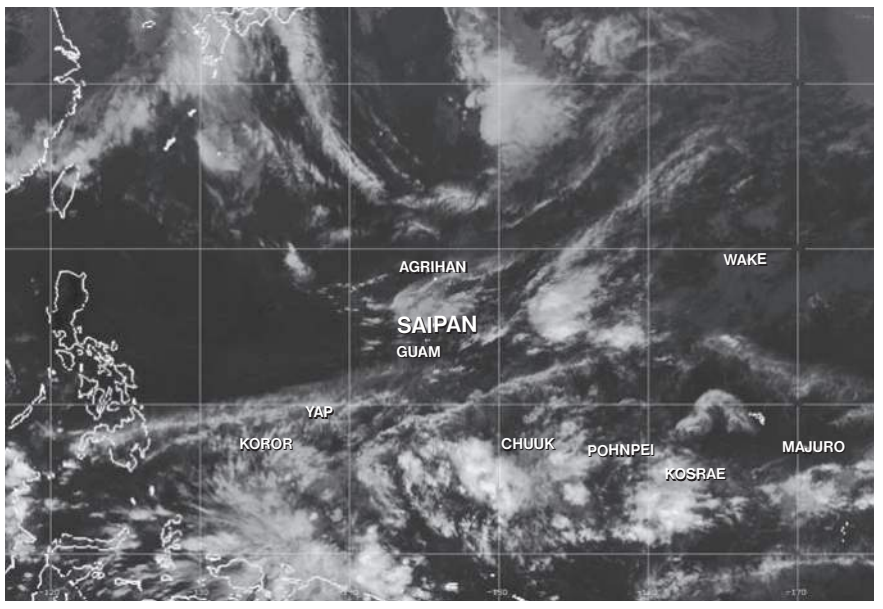
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼78
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼78
Yap	Showers	▲90	▼76
Chuuk	Showers	▲90	▼79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86	▼78
Kosrae	Showers	▲86	▼78
Majuro	Showers	▲86	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲70	▼65
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲74	▼50
Hong Kong	Showers	▲78	▼73
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲82	▼70
London	Showers	▲56	▼50
Los Angeles	Showers	▲69	▼55
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲93	▼83
Melbourne	Showers	▲64	▼50
Miami	Sunny	▲81	▼66
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲60	▼48
Osaka	Rain	▲67	▼53
Paris	Windy	▲61	▼51
Pusan	Windy	▲65	▼51
Rome	Sunny	▲73	▼55
Salem	Showers	▲60	▼48
San Francisco	Showers	▲62	▼54
Seoul	Sunny	▲64	▼43
Tokyo	Showers	▲65	▼60
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲68	▼55

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, APRIL 24, 2012

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front curves southwestward from the date line at 20N180 to east of Wake Island at 18N176E then continues as a shear line curving westward south of Tinian and Saipan to end near 19N139E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are along and up to 200 miles north of the boundary. A circulation JTWC invest area 97W is centered south of Koror near 5N135E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found just south of Koror between the equator and 6N from 131E to 139E. Convergent trade winds are producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms well south of Guam between 3N and 8N from 140E to 150E near Chuuk between 1N and 8N from 151E to 157E around Kosrae between 1N and 6N from 159E to 167E and southeast of Majuro within 80 miles of a line that extends northeastward from 2N170E to 7N178E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

12:17 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
5:51 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
10:35 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
5:59 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:56 AM	6:34 PM
Friday	5:56 AM	6:34 PM
Saturday	5:55 AM	6:34 PM
Sunday	5:55 AM	6:34 PM
Monday	5:54 AM	6:34 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	9:22 AM	10:36 PM
Friday	10:13 AM	11:22 PM
Saturday	11:05 AM	
Sunday	11:57 AM	12:07 AM
Monday	12:50 PM	12:51 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 11, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
C05062	2:10am	2:40am	1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)			
C05064	4:15am	4:50am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
C05064	4:15am	5:45am	1, 5 via ROP
C05070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C05068	8:25am	9:15am	Daily
C05074	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C05076	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05078	6:50pm	7:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05078	7:00pm	7:50pm	3, 6
C05072	9:55pm	10:45pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05072	10:05pm	10:55pm	3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
DL285	6:35am	9:15am	1, 3, 5, 7
DL297	4:25pm	7:15pm	Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)			
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	Daily via KIX
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			
OZ608	3:35am	7:05am	4, 7
DL581	4:10am	7:30am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C05070/191	4:35am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:25pm	Daily via NRT
C05068/183	8:25am	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM
C05068/183	8:25am	9:40pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:40pm	1, 4, 7 via GUM
C05076/193	3:10pm	11:00pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN
C05072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 5, 7 via GUM
C05072/PR111	10:05pm	7:50am+1	3, 6 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C05076/147	3:10pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:30pm	Daily via ICN
OZ604/749	3:20pm	10:50pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
C05064	5:15am	5:45am	1, 5
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
C05062	3:10am	3:45am	1, 5
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
C05062	2:10am	3:45am	1, 5 via ROP
C05069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C05071	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C05073	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05075	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C05077	5:30pm	6:20pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05077	5:40pm	6:30pm	3, 6
C05079	8:35pm	9:25pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05079	8:45pm	9:35pm	3, 6
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily
DL286	7:40pm	12:20am+1	2, 4, 6, 7
OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
OZ120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	Daily
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	3, 6
DL580	10:10pm	2:55am+1	4, 7
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
DL172/288	8:00am	1:15am+1	Daily via NRT
C0190/5077	10:55am	6:30pm	3, 6 via GUM
C0190/5079	10:55am	9:35pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C05071	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0192/5071	10:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
C0184/5071	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:40pm	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
C0184/5071	11:59pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0180/5071	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Business

Ex-BP engineer arrested in Gulf oil spill case

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Federal prosecutors brought the first criminal charges Tuesday in the Gulf oil spill, accusing a former BP engineer of deleting more than 300 text messages that indicated the blown-out well was spewing far more crude than the company was telling the public at the time.

Two years and four days after the drilling-rig explosion that set off the worst offshore oil spill in U.S. history, Kurt Mix, 50, of Katy, Texas, was arrested and charged with two counts of obstruction of justice for allegedly destroying evidence.

His attorney, Joan McPhee, issued a statement Tuesday evening describing the charges as misguided and that she is confident Mix will be exonerated.

"The government says he intentionally deleted text messages from his phone, but the content of those messages still resides in thousands of emails, text messages and other documents that he saved," she said. "Indeed, the emails that Kurt preserved include the very ones highlighted by the government."

The U.S. Justice Department made it clear that the investigation is still going on and suggested that more people could be arrested. In a statement, Attorney General Eric Holder said prosecutors "will hold accountable those who violated the law in connection with the largest environmental disaster in U.S. history."

Federal investigators have been looking into the causes of the blowout and the actions of managers, engineers and rig workers at BP and its subcontractors Halliburton and Transocean in the days and hours before the April 20, 2010, explosion.

But the case against Mix focuses only on the aftermath of the blast, when BP scrambled for weeks to plug the leak. Even then, the charges are not really about the disaster itself, but about an alleged attempt to thwart the investigation into it.

In court papers, the FBI said one of the areas under investigation is whether the oil company intentionally lowballed the amount of crude spewing from the well.

In outlining the charges, the government suggested Mix knew the rate of flow from the busted well was much greater than the company publicly acknowledged.

Prosecutors also said BP gave the public an optimistic account of its May 2010 efforts to plug the well via a technique called a "top kill," even though the company's internal data and some of the text messages showed the operation was likely to fail.

An accurate flow-rate estimate is necessary to determine how much in penalties BP and its subcontractors could face under the Clean Water Act. In court papers, prosecutors appeared to suggest the company was also worried about the effect of the disaster on its stock price.

The charges came a day before a federal judge was to consider granting preliminary approval of a $7.8 billion civil settlement between BP and a committee of plaintiffs.

In a statement, BP said it is cooperating with the Justice Department and added: "BP had clear policies requiring preservation of evidence in this case and has undertaken substantial and ongoing efforts to preserve evidence."

The FBI said in court papers that Mix had been repeatedly notified by BP that instant messages and text messages needed to be preserved.

Mix, who resigned from BP in January, appeared on Tuesday afternoon before a judge in Houston, shackled at his hands and feet, and was released on $100,000 bail. His attorney had no comment afterward. If convicted, Mix could get up to 20 years in prison and a $250,000 fine on each count.

The engineer deleted more than 200 messages sent to a BP supervisor from his iPhone containing information about how much oil was spilling out, then erased 100 more messages to a contractor the following year, prosecutors said. Some of the messages were later recovered via forensic computer techniques.

Many of the messages had to do with an effort to plug up the well with heavy mud injected under high pressure.

In public statements, the company professed optimism that the top kill would work, giving it a 60 to 70 percent chance of success.

On the day the top kill began, Mix estimated in a text to his supervisor that more than 15,000 barrels of oil per day were spilling—three times BP's public estimate of 5,000 barrels and an amount much greater than what BP said the top kill could probably handle.

AP

Former BP engineer Kurt Mix leaves the federal courthouse after a hearing Tuesday, April 24, 2012, in Houston. Federal prosecutors brought the first criminal charges Tuesday in the Deepwater Horizon disaster, accusing Mix of deleting more than 300 text messages that indicated the blown-out well was spewing far more crude than the company was telling the public at the time.

Halliburton objects to Gulf spill settlement

Cement contractor Halliburton is objecting to a proposed $7.8 billion settlement between BP and a plaintiffs group representing more than 100,000 victims of the 2010 oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

Halliburton said in a filing in federal court in New Orleans late Tuesday the settlement improperly seeks to assign certain claims that BP has made against Halliburton to the Plaintiffs Steering Committee.

The Houston-based company says allowing the settlement to be approved under those conditions would affect its ability to independently settle with the PSC or individual plaintiffs. Halliburton also asserts it can't be made to contribute to payments BP makes to the plaintiffs without a legal obligation to do so.

Preliminary approval of the momentous settlement is expected to be considered by a federal judge on Wednesday. ***(AP)***

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Protesters crash Wells Fargo shareholder meeting

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Hundreds of Occupy Wall Street demonstrators from across the country descended on San Francisco Tuesday in an attempt to crash banking giant Wells Fargo's annual shareholders meeting. Several dozen people representing community groups had bought company stock and were allowed inside. Police said 24 people were arrested, including 15 for disrupting the meeting while inside the standing-room-only gathering of nearly 300 people. Demonstrators outside the Merchant's Exchange Building in the city's bustling financial district waved signs and blocked the street while chanting, "We are the 99 percent! Let us in!"

Apple trumps expectations, sells 35M iPhones in 2Q

NEW YORK (AP)—Apple Inc., the world's most valuable company, trumped skeptics once again by reporting blowout iPhone sales. Apple says it sold 35 million iPhones in the January-to-March quarter, almost twice as many as it sold a year ago and above analyst expectations. Apple's stock was down 2 percent at the close of regular trading, as investors believed phone companies had reined in iPhone sales. In extended trading, the stock rallied $40.02, or 7.1 percent, to $600.30. "They're delivering the goods much stronger than even the biggest bulls would have thought," said Brian White, an analyst with Topeka Capital Markets. "It's Apple fever at its finest."

Oil rises to near $104 after US supplies drop

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices rose slightly to nearly $104 a barrel Wednesday in Asia after a report showed U.S. crude supplies unexpectedly fell, suggesting demand may be improving. Benchmark oil for June delivery was up 19 cents to $103.74 a barrel at midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract rose 44 cents to settle at $103.55 in New York on Tuesday. Brent crude for June delivery was up 23 cents at $118.39 per barrel in London.

2012 FHB/GBM Businesswoman of Year winner to be announced at gala

TAMUNING, Guam—The 2012 First Hawaiian Bank *Guam Business Magazine Businesswoman* of the Year Maga'haga award recipient will be announced Saturday, April 28, at the 7th Annual Businesswoman of the Year Award Gala in the Orchid Room at the Aurora Resort & Spa.

The award program brings recognition to businesswomen who have made significant contributions to their industries and have demonstrated a strong commitment to their community.

The 2012 nominees are: Katie F. Black, Sales Account Manager, United; Laila Y. Boyer, President, Marianas Variety News and Views; Shelly V. Calvo, Owner, Oxygene and Diva's Café; Jaylene Kent, President, Isla Paint and Roofing Supply; Françoise Martin, Chiropractor, Walking Tall Clinic; Layla Raymanova, Realtor, Century 21 Commonwealth Realty; Annette T. Santos, Associate Professor, School of Business and Public Administration, University of Guam and owner of ATS Resources; Frances C. Schier, General Manager, Travel Pacificana; Mary P. Torre, President, Guam Hotel & Restaurant Association and President MARQ Consulting Services; and Andrea S. Whitt, Executive Director, Customer Service, IT&E.

The winner will be announced at approximately 9:30pm at the gala. The media is cordially invited to the award presentation for photos and interview opportunities. The *Guam Business Magazine* May-June issue, featuring a commissioned photo study of the winner on its cover, will be released in conjunction with the announcement of the winner's name.

Proceeds from the gala will fund scholarships at the University of Guam, Guam Community College and Northern Marianas College.

For more information contact Frank Whitman, managing editor, Guam Business Magazine at (671) 649-0883 ext. 126 or managingeditor@glimpsesofguam.com or Lou Sanchez, sales and marketing manager, First Hawaiian Bank at (671) 475-7853 or lsanchez@fhb.com. ***(PR)***

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
13,001.56	1,371.96	2,961.60
74.39	5.03	-8.85
+0.58%	+0.37%	-0.30%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	0.9699	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7594	Philippine Peso	42.625
British Pound	0.6196	Indian Rupee	52.525	Singapore Dollar	1.2468
Canadian Dollar	0.9876	Indonesian Rupiah	9198.75	South Korean Won	1141.25
Chinese Yuan	6.305	Japanese Yen	81.354	Swiss Franc	0.9111
Euro	0.7582	Malaysian Ringgit	3.0645	Taiwan Dollar	29.477
		New Zealand Dollar	1.2329	Thailand Baht	30.95

Nation

Romney eyes 5 more wins, promises 'better America'

WASHINGTON (AP)—Mitt Romney laid claim to a fiercely contested Republican presidential nomination Tuesday night, anticipating a sweep of five more primaries and urging all who struggle in a shaky economy to "Hold on a little longer; a better America begins tonight."

The primaries—in New York, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Rhode Island and Delaware—were the first since Rick Santorum conceded the nomination, and Romney was eager to turn the political page.

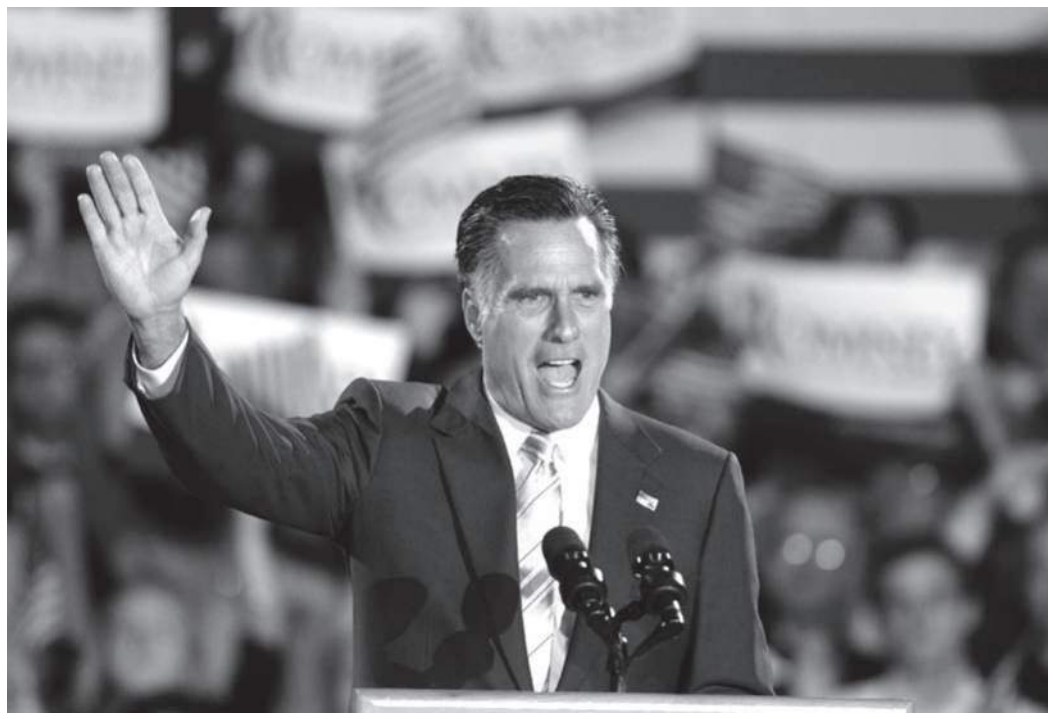
"After 43 primaries and caucuses, many long days and not a few long nights, I can say with confidence—and gratitude—that you have given me a great honor and solemn responsibility," he said in excerpts of a speech to be delivered in New Hampshire.

Vowing to defeat President Barack Obama, he said that in the past three years, "we have seen hopes and dreams diminished by false promises and weak leadership. Everywhere I go, Americans are tired of being tired, and many of those who are fortunate enough to have a job are working harder for less."

Opinion polls have long made the economy the top issue of the campaign, and Romney posed a series of rhetorical questions designed to lead voters to his side.

"Is it easier to make ends meet? Is it earlier to sell your home or buy a new one? Have you saved what you needed for retirement?" he said in the excerpts released by his campaign.

The speech was meant to cap the nominating campaign that still had some loose ends, including the pursuit of national convention delegates.



AP

Republican presidential candidate, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney takes the stage at an election night rally in Manchester, N.H., Tuesday, April 24, 2012.

Romney is still more than 400 Republican National Convention delegates shy of a nominating majority, although he is far ahead of his most persistent rivals. There were 209 at stake in Tuesday's primaries.

Romney began the day with 698 delegates of the 1,144 needed for the nomination, compared with 260 for Santorum, 137 for Newt Gingrich and 75 for Ron Paul.

Santorum suspended his campaign two weeks ago rather than risk losing a primary in his home state of Pennsylvania.

Gingrich, too, seemed to be heading toward the sidelines, but first he wanted to see the outcome of the primary in Delaware, where he has campaigned in recent days and has pocketed a few endorsements. Jackie Cushman Gingrich, his daughter, said the former House speaker intended to reassess his debt-strapped candidacy on Wednesday.

The nomination in hand, Romney has begun focusing more on Obama in recent days, campaigning in key battleground states, appointing an aide to oversee his search for a vice presidential running mate and accelerating his fundraising for the fall.

On Monday, he offered support for Obama's call for legislation to prevent an increase in the interest rate on some student loans. In a second move toward the middle, he said his campaign was reviewing legislation to let young illegal immigrants brought to the U.S. by their parents apply for non-immigrant visas.

Under a measure being drafted by Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, a potential ticket-mate for Romney, the immigrants affected by the legislation would be allowed to study or work in the United States but would not have a special path to citizenship.

At the same time, Romney is slowly accumulating the delegates to ratify his nomination at the party convention in Tampa, Fla., this summer.

Obama pushes low-rate student loans, wooing young

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. (AP)—President Barack Obama went after the college vote Tuesday, pitching cheaper student loans as he courted the one age group where he has a decided advantage over Republican rival Mitt Romney. The twist? Romney, too, has endorsed the idea, though it's unclear whether deficit-leery Republicans in Congress will go along.

In the race for the White House, both the Obama and Romney campaigns see huge opportunities to court younger voters. This week, their efforts are focused on the millions of students—and their parents—who are grappling with college costs at a time when such debt has grown so staggering it exceeds the totals for credit cards or auto loans.

Trying to make it personal, Obama told students at the University of North Carolina that he and first lady Michelle Obama had "been in your shoes" and didn't pay off their student loans until eight years ago.

"I didn't just read about this. I didn't just get some talking points about this. I didn't just get a policy briefing on this," Obama said. "We didn't come from wealthy families. When we graduated from college and law school, we had a mountain of debt. When we married, we got poor together."

Obama's emphasis on his personal experience set up a contrast with Romney, whose father was a wealthy auto executive. It's a point the president is sure to return to during this summer's campaigning.

Late Tuesday, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., introduced legislation that would keep the interest rate for subsidized loans for poorer and middle-class students at their current level for another year at a cost of $5.9 billion. The timing is important because the rate will double from 3.4 percent to 6.8 percent on July 1 without intervention by Congress, an expiration date chosen in 2007 when a Democratic Congress voted to chop the rate in half.

The Federal Reserve Bank of New York has estimated about 15 percent of Americans, or 37 million people, have outstanding student loan debt. The bank puts the total at $870 billion, though other estimates have reached $1 trillion. About two-thirds of student loan debt is held by people under 30.

Rodney King reflects on an up-down life since riot

LOS ANGELES (AP)—We saw his face a bloody, pulpy mess. And in 1992, when the four Los Angeles Police officers who beat him after a traffic stop were acquitted, it touched off anger that affected an entire generation. Now, 20 years later, this is the face of Rodney King, and this is what has happened to him in the interim.

He's been a record company executive and a reality TV star among many other things.

To millions of Americans, though, he will always be either a victim of one of the most horrific cases of police brutality ever videotaped or just a hooligan who didn't stop when police attempted to pull him over.

He's indisputably the black motorist whose beating on a darkened LA street led to one of the worst race riots in American history.

It's been an up-and-down ride for King since he went on television at the height of those riots and pleaded in a quavering voice, "Can we all get along?"

AP

On April 13, 2012, Rodney King poses for a portrait in Los Angeles. The acquittal of four police officers in the videotaped beating of King sparked rioting that spread across the city and into neighboring suburbs.

He's been arrested numerous times, mostly for alcohol-related crimes. In a recent interview with The Associated Press he said, "I still sip, I don't get drunk."

He has been to a number of rehab programs, he said, including the 2008 appearance on "Dr. Drew" Pinsky's "Celebrity Rehab" program.

Still, he was arrested again just last year for driving under the influence.

It was his fear of being stopped for drunken driving on March 3, 1991, King said, that initially led him to try to evade police who attempted to pull him over for speeding.

After he did stop, four LA police officers hit him more than 50 times with their batons, kicked him and shot him with stun guns. A man who had quietly stepped outside his home to observe the commotion videotaped most of it and turned a copy over to a local TV station.

After a jury with no black members acquitted the officers on April 29, 1992, the city's black community exploded in rage. Fifty-five people died, more than 2,000 were injured over three days.

King received a $3.8 million settlement from the city, but said he lost most it to bad investments, among them a hip-hop record label he founded that quickly went broke.

He makes money these days taking part in events like celebrity boxing matches. He's also promoting his just-published memoir, "The Riot Within: My Journey From Rebellion to Redemption."

A tall, physically imposing man who is disarmingly friendly, self-effacing and soft-spoken, King, 47, maintains he is happy.

"America's been good to me after I paid the price and stayed alive through it all," he says. "This part of my life is the easy part now."

3 more Secret Service employees ousted in scandal

WASHINGTON (AP)—Three more Secret Service employees have been forced out of the government, bringing to nine the number of people who have lost their jobs in the prostitution scandal roiling the agency. President Barack Obama said the employees at the center of the sordid episode were "knuckleheads," but not representative of the agency that protects his family in the glare of public life.

Two employees have resigned and a third is having his national security clearance revoked, the Secret Service said Tuesday. The employee whose clearance is being revoked can appeal the decision.

Rep. Peter King, R-N.Y., chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee, said one of the resigning agents stayed at the Hilton hotel in Cartagena, Colombia, where Obama stayed for the Summit of Americas. The others stayed at the nearby Hotel Caribe.

Two others have been cleared of serious misconduct. Last week, six employees, including two supervisors, were forced out and another was cleared of serious wrongdoing. The three who were cleared will still face "appropriate administrative action", the Secret Service said.

The scandal erupted after a fight over payment between a Colombian prostitute and a Secret Service employee spilled into the hallway of the Hotel Caribe. A dozen military personnel have also been implicated and Defense Secretary Leon Panetta said this week they have had their security clearances suspended.

Obama acknowledged Tuesday that the scandal was "a little distracting" and pressed for perspective.

"These guys are incredible. They protect me. They protect Michelle. They protect the girls. They protect our officials all around the world," the president said on NBC's "Late Night with Jimmy Fallon."

"A couple of knuckleheads shouldn't detract from what they do," Obama added. "What these guys were thinking, I don't know. That's why they're not there anymore."

Even as Obama spoke, officials on Capitol Hill were probing for any misconduct in the agency in the past decade and girding for the first public accounting of the incident that embarrassed the Obama administration.

Asia

PH court orders breakup of Aquino hacienda

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine Supreme Court ruled Tuesday to break up the sugar estate owned by the president's relatives and distribute it to thousands of farmers following decades of unrest and unfinished land reform.

The landmark ruling is politically charged because President Benigno Aquino III has called on the head of the Supreme Court to step down because of corruption allegations.

Chief Justice Renato Corona, fighting an impeachment trial to remove him, claims that the charges against him were instigated by Aquino because of the court's rulings favoring the farmers. Aquino has denied this, and divested his share of the estate before becoming president in 2010.

Dozens of Hacienda Luisita farmers greeted the court's ruling with cheers and loud applause. They traveled 100 kilometers (60 miles) from their homes in Tarlac province to northern Baguio city, where the 14 justices deliberated the issue.

Court spokesman Midas Marquez said Corona led the deliberation.

Aquino had no immediate comment, his spokeswoman Abigail Valte said.

The Philippines passed a land reform law in 1988 following the ouster of dictator Ferdinand Marcos. It contained a provision that gave large estates an option to distribute shares of stocks to farmers instead of land.

The Supreme Court last year scrapped the controversial provision because the stock distribution scheme did not improve the lives of plantation workers.

Other estates in the Philippines have been converted to commercial or residential use but not distributed to farmers.

For impoverished farmers, Hacienda Luisita stood as a symbol of injustice and unfulfilled promise of land reform in the country where the landed elite have translated their economic wealth into political influence.

Antonio Ligon, spokesman for Hacienda Luisita Inc., said that nearly 5,000 hectares (12,355 acres) of the estate will be distributed among about 6,300 beneficiaries.

He said that the compensation based on the value of the land in 1989 ordered by the court fell far short of the 2006 rates that the owners were seeking. Land prices in 2006 were about 25 times their value in 1989.

However, the final price will still have to be determined by a special agrarian court.

AP

Protesting farmers display caricature masks of President Benigno Aquino III as they burn a mock 10 billion peso denomination during a rally near the presidential palace Tuesday, March 27, 2012 in Manila, Philippines.

Tajikistan closer to Russian bases deal

DUSHANBE, Tajikistan (AP)—Russia and Tajikistan are getting closer to a deal that would extend the presence of Russian troops in the Central Asian nation beyond 2014, Russia's foreign minister said Tuesday.

It is expected that the lease for the three Russian-controlled garrisons in the former Soviet republic neighboring Afghanistan will be extended by 49 years—a prospect first floated by outgoing Russian President Dmitry Medvedev in September.

The deal would allow Russia to maintain a stronghold in the volatile Central Asian region. Tajikistan has been dragging its feet over the lease for the Russian garrisons in the hope of securing enhanced financial terms.

Tajikistan's ambassador to Russia hinted this week that his government would seek $300 million annually in cash or equivalent in military assistance for the bases. Moscow is expected to seek a much lower fee.

Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov told reporters that no date for the deal's signing has been set yet, but added that Tajik President Emomali Rakhmon had given the necessary instructions will be issued to "speed up the negotiation process."

Lavrov said he also discussed security in Afghanistan during talks in the Tajik capital, Dushanbe, with Rakhmon and other senior officials.

He reiterated his concerns that Afghan security forces would not be up to the task of maintaining order by the time of NATO forces withdrawal in 2014. Tajikistan and other ex-Soviet neighbors of Afghanistan fear a spillover of violence in the event of a renewed outbreak of civil conflict.

The Russian 201st Motorized Rifle Division deployed in Tajikistan numbers 7,500 servicemen and is the largest current deployment of Russian troops abroad. It is based in three garrisons—near Dushanbe and in the southern cities of Kulyab and Kurgan-Tube.

Russia's military presence helped negotiate an end to the five-year civil war that devastated Tajikistan in the 1990s.

Moscow has been strongly pressuring Tajikistan to allow it to revive an old arrangement that placed Russian border guards on the Tajik-Afghan border. Rakhmon's government has resisted those overtures fearing it could erode the country's sovereignty.

ASIAN BRIEFS

N. Korea: 'Mobile weapons' capable of striking US

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP)—A senior North Korean army official says his country is armed with "powerful mobile weapons" capable of striking America. Vice Marshal Ri Yong Ho emphasized the importance of defending the North against the U.S. and South Korea as Pyongyang marked the 80th anniversary of the nation's army Wednesday. He told officials at the April 25 House of Culture that the weapons could defeat the U.S. "at a single blow." North Korea made another unusual claim Monday, promising "special actions" that would reduce Seoul's government to ashes.

Pakistan tests upgraded nuclear-capable missile

ISLAMABAD (AP)—The Pakistani military says it has successfully test-launched an upgraded intermediate-range ballistic missile capable of carrying a nuclear warhead. The military said in a statement Wednesday that the missile was an improved version of the Shaheen 1 with a longer range. The Shaheen 1 is believed to have a range of 750 kilometers (465 miles). The military did not provide the exact range of the new Shaheen 1A. The launch comes days after Pakistan's neighbor and archenemy, India, announced that it had successfully test-launched a new nuclear-capable, long-range missile. The Agni-V has a range of 5,000 kilometers (3,100 miles).

Chinese province plans tours to disputed islands

BEIJING (AP)—A Chinese provincial official said Tuesday he's determined to start tourism development in the disputed Paracel Islands this year, a move that could further raise tensions with rival claimant Vietnam. Hainan Vice Governor Tan Li said he is preparing to take tourists to the archipelago, about 350 kilometers (220 miles) southwest of Hainan and about the same distance from Vietnam's coast. Tan gave no details, although the provincial tourism authority has previously organized at least one tourist regatta to the islands. China ejected forces of the former South Vietnam from the Paracels in 1974, but Vietnam insists the islands are part of its territory.

Singapore man fined for setting cat on fire

SINGAPORE (AP)—A newspaper says a Singapore man who set his neighbors cat on fire after the feline defecated in front of his apartment has been fined by a court. The Straits Times said a district court on Tuesday ordered 78-year-old Chua Tuang Seng to pay a fine of 3,000 Singapore dollars ($2,400) and to pay SG$1,235 to the cat's owner for medical treatment. The paper said Chua pleaded guilty to "causing unnecessary suffering to an animal." It said Chua last year poured kerosene over a 7-year-old Persian tabby named Ricco and set its fur on fire with a lit piece of newspaper. The cat belongs to a neighbor on the floor above Chua. The paper said Ricco was hospitalized for four days and still has scars from the attack.

Pakistan's top court to deliver verdict in PM case

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistan's Supreme Court is expected to deliver a verdict later this week in a contempt case against the prime minister that could see him losing his job at a time when his U.S.-backed government is fighting terrorism and militancy, the premier's lawyer said Tuesday.

A guilty verdict could also result in Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani serving up to six months in prison for his refusal to reopen an old corruption case against the country's president, his political ally.

That could stoke fresh political turmoil at a time when Pakistan is trying to patch up its relations with the United States and is grappling with a weak economy and a bloody Taliban insurgency.

But even if Gilani is forced to step down—a process that could take months—the deeper political impact could be limited since the ruling coalition has the majority in parliament needed to elect a new prime minister.

The court has summoned to Gilani to appear before it on Thursday, when it is expected to deliver its verdict, said his lawyer, Aitzaz Ahsan.

"I am hopeful that the prime minister will be acquitted," Ahsan told reporters outside the courthouse in Islamabad.

The judges have repeatedly ordered the government to write a letter to Swiss authorities requesting they reopen a graft case against President Asif Ali Zardari that dates back to the late 1990s.

Gilani has refused, saying the president enjoys immunity from criminal prosecution while in office. He and other members of the ruling Pakistan People's Party have argued that the Supreme Court has relentlessly pursued the case because of bad blood between Chief Justice Iftikhar Mohammad Chaudry and Zardari.

Also Tuesday, a bomb went off at a railway station in the city of Lahore, killing three people and wounding more than 20 others, police official Manzoor Ahemd said.

He said the bomb went off outside a waiting room of the station in Lahore, the capital of eastern Punjab province.

Although Pakistan has witnessed scores of bomb blasts in recent years, such attacks at railway stations are rare.

World

Annan alarmed at Syria military action

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—International envoy Kofi Annan told the U.N. Security Council Tuesday that the situation in Syria is "bleak" and expressed alarm at reports that government troops are still carrying out military operations in towns where U.N. observers are not present.

He expressed particular concern at media reports that government troops entered the central city of Hama on Monday after U.N. observers departed, firing automatic weapons and killing a significant number of people. Activists said more than 30 people were killed.

"If confirmed, this is totally unacceptable and reprehensible," he said.

Annan echoed U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, who called the current situation "unacceptable," and urged President Bashar Assad's government to immediately implement his six-point peace-plan, which would culminate with Syrian-led talks between the government and opposition aimed at reaching a peace settlement.

The joint U.N.-Arab League envoy said the speedy deployment of the 300-strong U.N. observer force authorized by the council on Saturday is "crucial" to verify what is happening on the ground and potentially "change the political dynamics." The observer force also would provide the international community with "incontrovertible" information to increase pressure for a cease-fire by the government and opposition, he said.

AP

This image made from amateur video released by the Shaam News Network and accessed Monday, April 23, 2012, purports to show covered bodies before a funeral in Hama, Syria.

Annan briefed the Security Council by videoconference hours after his spokesman, Ahmad Fawzi, told U.N. Television in Geneva that satellite imagery and other credible reports show that, despite its claims, Syria has failed to withdraw all of its heavy weapons from populated areas as required by the cease-fire deal it accepted.

Fawzi also cited credible reports that "people who approach the observers may be approached by security forces or Syrian army and harassed or arrested or even worse, perhaps killed."

Annan did not mention either the satellite photos or the harassment and possible killing of people who talked to the observers in the text of his closed briefing, which was obtained by The Associated Press, but he stressed that "the government cannot cease action in one area to resume it in another."

He told the council the Syrian foreign minister had informed him in a letter on April 21 of the withdrawal of troops and heavy equipment from populated areas and the handover of responsibility to police for maintaining law and order. He said he replied that this means troops should be back in barracks and weapons placed in storage "rather than operationally deployed," and that civilians should not be endangered by police actions.

Annan said the minister's letter is "encouraging" and would make "a real difference ... if it is scrupulously applied." But he added pointedly, "It should be understood that the only promises that count are the promises that are kept."

U.S. Ambassador Susan Rice told reporters after the briefing that "several council members expressed their skepticism on the Syrian government's intentions and the veracity of statements contained in the Syrian foreign minister's letter."

Russia's U.N. Ambassador Vitaly Churkin, whose country is Syria's most important ally, noted that some council members said "they have information" that Syria has not withdrawn its troops and heavy weapons.

"If this is the case, if the promise in the letter has not really been carried out, that would mean it is a breach of the promise they have made on Saturday," Churkin told reporters. "I'm certainly going to bring it to the attention of Moscow that there is an issue that needs to be looked at."

South Sudan president: Sudan has 'declared war'

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—South Sudan's president said its northern neighbor has "declared war" on the world's newest nation, just hours after Sudanese jets dropped eight bombs on his country.

President Salva Kiir's comments, made Tuesday during a trip to China, signal a rise in rhetoric between the rival nations, who spent decades at war with each other. Neither side has officially declared war.

Sudan and South Sudan have been drawing closer to a full-scale war in recent weeks over the unresolved issues of oil revenues and their disputed border. The violence has drawn alarm and condemnation from the international community, including from U.S. President Barack Obama.

South Sudan won independence from Sudan last year as part of a 2005 peace treaty that ended decades of war that killed 2 million people.

The U.N. Security Council was briefed on the situation late Tuesday and members demanded "an immediate halt to aerial bombardments by the Sudanese armed forces and urged an immediate cease-fire and return to the negotiating table," Susan Rice, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations and the current council president, told reporters at U.N. headquarters in New York.

Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir gave a fiery speech last week in which he said there will be no negotiations with the "poisonous insects" who are challenging Sudan's claim to disputed territory near the border.

Kiir, the southern president, arrived in China late Monday for a five-day visit to lobby for economic and diplomatic support. China's energy needs make it deeply vested in the future of the two Sudans. Beijing is uniquely positioned to exert influence in the conflict, given its deep trade ties to the resource-rich south and decades-long diplomatic ties with Sudan's government in the north.

The edge of war

South Sudan said it would withdraw troops from Heglig, which it seized last week.

Source: Drillinginfo International, ESRI
Graphic: Los Angeles Times © 2012 MCT

Kiir told Chinese President Hu Jintao the visit comes at a "a very critical moment for the Republic of South Sudan because our neighbor in Khartoum has declared war on the Republic of South Sudan."

South Sudan's military spokesman Col. Philip Aguer said that Sudanese Antonov warplanes dropped eight bombs overnight in Panakuac, where he said there was ground fighting on Monday. Aguer said he did not know how many people were killed in the attack because of poor communication links with the remote area.

On Monday, Sudanese warplanes bombed a market and an oil field in South Sudan, killing at least two people, after Sudanese ground forces reportedly crossed into South Sudan with tanks and artillery.

The U.N. Mission in South Sudan confirmed that at least 16 civilians in South Sudan were killed and 34 injured in bombings by Sudanese aircraft in Unity State, ambassador Rice told reporters. She said the mission reported that the bombings also caused significant damage to infrastructure.

Talks over oil revenue and the border issues broke down this month after violence flared. South Sudan invaded the oil-rich border town of Heglig, which Sudan claims it controls.

Angry EU voters, citizens rebel against austerity

BRUSSELS (AP)—For more than a year, European Union officials have called for austerity, austerity and more austerity as a means to solve Europe's debt crisis. Now people who don't want to pay the price are taking their fight from the streets to the ballot box.

Governments have fallen, more are at risk and in some places, a stark streak of nationalism is on the rise that could swing Europe ever deeper into a fortress mentality.

At stake is the future of the continent, where countries rich and poor are struggling with mountains of debt and moribund economies—a toxic combination that often seems to require contradictory remedies of belt-tightening and economic stimulus.

Increasingly, the long focus on austerity is convincing Europeans that the German-led mantra of fiscal responsibility is creating a vicious circle of more misery leading to lower growth—leading to even greater debt distress.

"What is happening in Europe is the austerity drive is actually slowing down the necessary rebalancing of European economies," said Simon Tilford, chief economist at the Center for European Reform.

Austerity measures aimed at balancing national budgets have led to drastic spending cuts by governments across the continent, including layoffs and pay cuts for government workers, slashing of key services including welfare and development programs, as well as tax hikes to boost government revenues.

Many in Europe have had enough of this harsh medicine.

In France, President Nicolas Sarkozy, one of the architects of the EU's response to the financial crisis, is in danger of being turned out of office in next month's runoff with Francois Hollande—a Socialist who is promising not to cut, but to increase public spending by (EURO)20 billion ($26.3 billion) by 2017.

Hollande is also promising to re-negotiate a much-vaunted budgetary pact among 25 EU

WORLD BRIEFS

Caretaker Dutch PM seeks consensus on cuts

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP)—Caretaker Prime Minister Mark Rutte appealed to a polarized Dutch Parliament on Tuesday to help him make painful budget cuts rather than let the country drift in political limbo until new elections. Speaking publicly for the first time since he tendered his resignation Monday, Rutte said the nation, long considered one of Europe's most fiscally responsible, has no time to waste. "I stand here in the hope that parties in this chamber are prepared ... to work with the Cabinet to do what is necessary to pull the Netherlands through these difficult economic times in a responsible way," he told lawmakers. Rutte's 18-month-old, conservative coalition government collapsed Monday after it failed to reach a deal on cutting its own budget deficit to within a target range adopted by European countries last year.

Swiss scientists demonstrate mind-controlled robot

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (AP)—Swiss scientists have demonstrated how a partially paralyzed person can control a robot by thought alone, a step they hope will one day allow immobile people to interact with their surroundings through so-called avatars. Similar experiments have taken place in the United States and Germany, but involved either able-bodied patients or invasive brain implants. On Tuesday, a team at Switzerland's Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne used only a simple head cap to record the brain signals of Mark-Andre Duc, who was at a hospital in the southern Swiss town of Sion 100 kilometers (62 miles) away. Duc's thoughts—or rather, the electrical signals emitted by his brain when he imagined lifting his paralyzed fingers—were decoded almost instantly by a laptop at the hospital. The resulting instructions—left or right—were then transmitted to a foot-tall robot scooting around the Lausanne lab.

Focus

Auto town on the mend, but bailout still divides

AP

In this Friday, Feb. 10, 2012 photo, Jeff Schrock, United Auto Workers Region 3 representative and a third-generation autoworker, holds a photo of his father that he carries in his shirt pocket, as he sits in front of the home he grew up in and where his father still lives, just blocks from some of the factories he represents in Kokomo, Ind.

KOKOMO, Ind. (AP)—Back in this town's darkest days, Jeff Shrock, a third-generation autoworker, would cruise down the streets where he grew up, past the foreclosed homes and four giant Chrysler factories, knowing their future—and his job—were in jeopardy. He sometimes imagined the worst.

"I wondered what would happen five, six years down the road when the weeds were growing in parking lots and the plants had their windows broken out," he says. "What would the community look like then?"

These were not far-fetched fears. Kokomo had made an ignominious Forbes list of fastest-dying communities in America. The recession and collapse of the U.S. auto industry had battered the town. Three major employers—Chrysler, General Motors and Delphi, an auto parts supplier—had filed for bankruptcy. Hundreds of workers were laid off. Unemployment briefly topped 20 percent.

Shrock, who'd risen from Chrysler machine operator to a United Auto Workers international representative, was worried. It wasn't just 4,000 Chrysler workers. He was also thinking about some 10,000 auto retirees in the county and their pensions.

During that tense first half of 2009, Shrock wondered if the automakers—and his town—would endure. The Obama administration had pumped in more than $60 billion to fund GM and Chrysler's bankruptcies, but there were no guarantees.

"I had a lot of personal doubts, but whenever I walked out the door, I never showed that," Shrock says. "People had enough burden on them already, not knowing if they were going to have a job. They had mortgages. They had kids in school. They had car payments. They had credit cards. The last thing I wanted in their mind was this was not going to work."

Flash forward. The U.S. auto industry has staged an amazing comeback, and the town's largest employer, Chrysler, has pledged to invest nearly $1.3 billion into its plants here, added about 1,000 workers and helped boost Kokomo's fortunes—it was honored in 2011 by the state chamber of commerce as Community of the Year.

But the resurrection of U.S. automakers has done little to resolve a deep political divide over the bailout. Democrats, led by President Barack Obama, call it an undeniable success. The Republican presidential candidates, most notably Mitt Romney, condemn it as government meddling, both unfair and unnecessary, and even some Indiana politicians agree.

To many folks in Kokomo, though, the political debate seems disconnected from this reality: Kokomo survives. Detroit is America's car capital, but Kokomo has its own proud role in auto history.

It started in 1894 when Elwood Haynes, an enterprising inventor with a thick mustache and Chaplinesque bowler, towed his gas-powered carriage to a winding road on the southeast edge of town called Pumpkinvine Pike. He drove off, puttering along at 7 mph—and becoming one of the early auto pioneers.

That road test, though, was just one of many auto distinctions for this "City of Firsts." Among them: First carburetor, first push-button car radio, first pneumatic tire.

More than a century later, Kokomo had cemented its reputation as a car city. Though Chrysler and GM have reduced their workforce in Kokomo over the years, the two companies and suppliers account for more than 20 percent of all jobs, and the ripple effect is many times that.

It's the kind of town where family reunions can be measured in how many generations of fathers, brothers and sons toiled on a Chrysler or GM line (or both). It's also a community where workers live with uncertainty. Shrock still remembers his father wondering if he'd have a check to cash in `79 when Chrysler was drowning, and then-CEO Leo Iacocca begged the federal government for help.

More than 30 years later, he was a silver-haired father himself, he and the Chrysler workers were facing a similar situation—and Kokomo still was at the mercy of the auto economy.

The threat of shuttered plants, a mass exodus and blight—a familiar site among aging steel and auto communities across the Midwest—loomed large.

A Brookings Institution report said the demise of all auto-related jobs could result in the staggering loss of more than half of all area employment.

Laura Sheets, chair of the board of the Greater Kokomo Economic Development Alliance, sensed that worry when she headed United Way's community campaign in 2009. Knocking on the doors of businesses for charitable contributions from workers, "there was such a dread, so much uncertainty," she says, "no one wanted to say what they were thinking. No one wanted to verbalize how bad things could be."

It wasn't as if Kokomo could instantly transform itself. "How do you replace that big of a footprint?" she says. "People would say, `How could you be so dependent on one industry?' But that's what we do."

The trouble, though, extended beyond autos. A pottery plant had already moved to China, eliminating 150 jobs. The housing crisis had taken hold, too. In 2009, 40 percent of home sales in Kokomo were foreclosures, says Paul Wyman, owner of a real estate company and a Howard County commissioner. At its worst, in the first quarter of that year, average home sales plummeted to about $30,000, compared with $110,000 in the previous two years.

"We saw a lot of fear and some sense of hopelessness," says Judy Dennis, director of the county's Family Service Association, which set up a foreclosure prevention counseling service. "There was a panic. We had so many people calling afraid they would lose their jobs. ... The feeling was, `Am I going to be next? What will I do? Where will I go?"

For Brian McKinley, a 42-year-old Chrysler engineer, those questions took on new urgency. He was already dealing with a divorce, the death of his mother, a pay cut and a layoff as the plants closed their doors during the bankruptcy

"I didn't know if I was going to ever have my job back," McKinley says. "Everything looked bad in every direction. There didn't seem to be much opportunity to go anywhere or do anything else because the whole country was in bad shape." He also wanted to stay put to be near his two children. "There wasn't a choice," he says.

Visiting reporters would ask Mayor Greg Goodnight: What are you going to do if the bailout and bankruptcy fall through?

"It's kind of like someone asking me what would you do right now if we had an earthquake, a tsunami and seven bank robberies at the same time? You do what you have to do," he says. "But I can't think of a worse-case scenario, economically."

Goodnight, a Democrat, knew some folks disapproved of the bailout. Once, a drug store clerk told him the government should let the automakers fail. "I said, `Look out the window. Who do you think helps pay for these roads, these street lights ... who do you think pays for our schools, our teachers?'"

Chrysler, Delphi and GM account for up to 20 percent of the city's revenues directly from property taxes, he says, and that doesn't take into account taxes paid by their workers.

"Why anyone in a logical sense would ask for the largest employer in their community to be liquidated ... is not thinking rationally," he says. "At some point, government has to be the stabilizer."

This wasn't just a Democratic attitude. Wyman, the county commissioner, compares the auto meltdown to Hurricane Katrina—both of them catastrophes demanding extraordinary measures.

"As a Republican, I can tell you I'm for smaller government every day of the week," he says. "But there is one thing I expect from the government and that is for government to respond to a major crisis. ... It worked and now the government should get out."

Wyman points out that a Republican—former President George W. Bush—approved $17.4 billion in bridge loans to Chrysler and GM after Congress failed to approve emergency aid. (Bush recently defended his action, saying "sometimes circumstances get in the way of philosophy.") The automakers had to develop restructuring plans once Obama took office. Both presidents, Wyman says, deserve credit.

"If it had gone the other way, our community would have been devastated," he says. "In hindsight, it was the right thing to do."

That's not how Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels sees it.

He says the GM and Chrysler bailout was a clear case of favoritism. "I was all over this state visiting with companies large and small that were in extremely difficult shape and nobody in Washington came around to wipe out their debts or write them a check," he says. "There was just an unfairness about it." He and other critics maintain the rescue violated bankruptcy laws. Richard Mourdock, Indiana's treasurer, unsuccessfully sued to stop Chrysler's sale to Fiat SpA on behalf of three state pension and construction funds representing teachers, police, and others.

He argued the sale of the majority of the automaker's assets favored unsecured stakeholders, such as the UAW, ahead of secured debtors in the funds. "How many of us believe that the U.S. government should pick winners and losers?" he asks. "Nobody agrees with that."

Mourdock, now a U.S. Senate candidate in the GOP primary, estimates the funds lost about $7 million during the bankruptcy.

Obama has trumpeted the auto recovery as one of his signature achievements—Vice President Joe Biden recently said his re-election message should be "Osama bin Laden is dead and General Motors is alive"—but the public is less enamored. A recent Gallup poll found 51 percent of Americans disapprove of the bailout, compared to 44 percent who like it. There's a stark party line difference: 63 percent of Democrats approve, 73 percent of Republicans oppose it.

No Republican presidential candidate has been a more vocal critic than Mitt Romney, whose father, George, ran the long-defunct American Motors Corp. In a 2008 op-ed in the New York Times titled, "Let Detroit Go Bankrupt," he called for a managed bankruptcy, followed by some government assistance, such as guaranteeing

In that piece, he predicted if U.S. automakers received the bailout "you can kiss the American automotive industry goodbye. It won't go overnight, but its demise will be virtually guaranteed." At least in the near term, his fears have not been realized. GM reported a record $7.6 billion profit last year. Chrysler, now privately held and majority owned by Fiat, earned $183 million in 2011, its first net profit since 1997.

In advance of Tuesday's Michigan primary, Romney defended his position in a Detroit News op-ed, calling the Obama administration's plan "crony capitalism" and a payback to his union supporters. He said the auto industry would have fared better without the intervention.

Sean McAlinden, an economist at the Center for Automotive Research, which receives funding from the automakers, says the union did get "one of the better deals in the history of bankruptcy"—its members' pensions were untouched and the UAW retirees health care trust funds own part of the companies.

But he points out that the UAW also agreed to a series of trade-offs and concessions. New workers, for instance, earn a much lower wage.

And McAlinden is among those who dispute claims by Romney and others that the industry would have survived with a managed bankruptcy.

"This sounds like a wonderfully sensible approach—except it's sheer fantasy," Steven Rattner, chief adviser to Obama's auto task force, wrote last week in a New York Times op-ed. He says there was no private financing available and without federal dollars, the automakers wouldn't have been able to pursue Chapter 11 bankruptcy and "would have been forced to cease production, close their doors and lay off virtually all workers once their coffers ran dry."

Those closings, he says, would have rippled to auto suppliers, and ultimately trucking companies, restaurants and other parts of the economy.

David Cole, chairman emeritus of the auto center, agrees.

"It has nothing to do with favoritism," he says. "It has to do with `no choice-ism.' ... The people who say we should have stayed out have no clue to what the risk was. It would have precipitated a dramatic job loss, which would have likely pushed the rest of the economy into a

See AUTO on Next Page

Environment

Fossil fuel emissions found on Alaska's glaciers

»An ancient (but modern) source of carbon

A new study concludes that fossil fuel emissions are likely contributors to a substantial amount of organic carbon found on glaciers in Alaska.

Fossil fuel emissions, which contain organic carbon, can speed up the rate of glacier melt when deposited on glacier surfaces. In addition, the organic molecules associated with these deposits can be transported in rivers and streams, affecting downstream aquatic ecosystems. Knowledge of the source and age of organic carbon in glaciers allows for a better understanding of these and other impacts.

Prior research suggested that the main sources of organic carbon in Alaska's glaciers were from forests and peatlands overrun by glaciers as far back as ten thousand years ago. While old soil and plant material are still possible sources of glacial organic carbon, new research indicates that human-created, or anthropogenic, sources are also important.

"We knew the organic carbon present in Alaska's glaciers was old, but identifying the sources of this material has been difficult due to the lack of chemical data," said USGS scientist George Aiken.

While extensive burning of fossil fuels is, geologically speaking, a relatively modern practice, the fuels themselves and the resulting carbon emissions are ancient. This is because the fuels are formed from plants and microorganisms that lived millions of years ago.

"Now we know that a substantial amount of ancient organic matter associated with these and other glaciers is of anthropogenic origin," said Aiken.

USGS

USGS scientists Doug Halm, Paul Schuster, and Kathy Kelsey collect melt water samples from Gulkana Glacier on Aug. 14, 2009.

Why study carbon levels?

When organic matter and other materials from the atmosphere are deposited on the surface of a glacier, less sunlight can be reflected and, therefore, more radiation and heat are absorbed. Having these materials on snow and ice surfaces causes them to melt faster.

Another concern is impacts to ecosystems and species habitats. As an example, organic matter exported to coastal areas is a potential nutrient or food source for aquatic bacteria, phytoplankton, and small grazing zooplankton. Climate warming or other factors may change the amount and quality of organic carbon available to these organisms. These aquatic organisms are also the base of the food web for all aquatic communities.

"When trying to understand climate change and decipher the carbon cycle puzzle, we need to make sure that we are using all of the right pieces," said USGS scientist Rob Striegl. "As part of that puzzle, we are studying the source and amount of carbon flowing into the Arctic Ocean. An understanding of the complete picture allows for the most informed decisions to protect our environment."

"The Arctic is of special interest because what happens there, such as extensive glacier melt, has impacts on the rest of the world," continued Striegl. "Glacier environments, especially those in thehigh latitudes of the Arctic, are also among the most sensitive to climate warming."

New twist to understanding carbon in glaciers

"Our new paper describes, for the first time, the detailed chemical composition of dissolved organic matter associated with glaciers and glacial meltwater in coastal Alaska and in Wyoming," said Aiken.

"This study adds a twist to previous understandings, showing there is another source of organic carbon out there that needs to be considered," said Striegl.

This study, published in the journal *Nature Geosciences*, was a collaborative effort of many institutions led primarily by the University of Alaska Southeast, Skidaway Institute of Oceanography, Woods Hole Research Center, and the USGS.

The role of USGS science

Earlier studies by the USGS, in collaboration with university researchers, found the presence of ancient organic carbon in the Yukon River and traced it back to meltwater from glaciers. For further analyses, USGS scientists continued those collaborations to sample meltwater from Mendenhall Glacier and Herbert Glacier in southeastern Alaska. The samples were then analyzed at USGS and university laboratories to develop the conclusions outlined in this new study.

"This truly is a collaborative effort, taking the expertise of many scientists to put the story together on the source of the carbon," said Striegl. "The original work of the USGS in the Yukon basin helped form the questions and lab results contributed to answering the questions; but it took specialized instrumentation and scientific expertise from several other organizations to determine the final answer."

Additional samples used for age dating and for other chemical characterization of the organic carbon of glaciers from other locations came from Gulkana Glacier in Alaska and from Fremont Glacier in Wyoming.

The big picture of aquatic carbon

The USGS has a long term goal of determining the source and fate of organic and inorganic carbon transported to coastal areas and oceans across the entire nation. USGS research on the Yukon and other Arctic rivers is particularly focused on climate warming effects on mobilizing ancient carbon from permafrost to coastal regions and the Arctic Ocean. The USGS participates in the Arctic Great Rivers Observatory project, which is an international effort to study the six largest rivers, including the Yukon, which flow into the Arctic Ocean. ***(USGS)***

Renewable energy to power UOG School of Education

Photovoltaic panels are being installed on the roof of the School of Education at the University of Guam. The Center for Island Sustainability is overseeing the installation, which is expected to be completed last April 13.

"The power system will use 52 pieces of 235 watt solar modules with two inverters," said Center for Island Sustainability Energy Technician Antonio Endaya. "Once installation is complete, about 10 percent of the building's power will be supplied through renewable energy."

Wireless access to the system will be available so that CIS Energy Technicians can monitor its power production and performance.

"This is the third building on campus and the first major facility to use photovoltaics to reduce energy consumption," said UOG President Robert Underwood. "We started with photovoltaics on the roof of Center for Island Sustainability, which is meant to model an average home on Guam, and another small structure located on Dean's Circle. The School of Education will be the first large building on campus to use renewable sources of energy. We began as a teacher training college back in 1952, and so it is fitting that the School of Education is the first major facility to embrace these technologies. We look forward to installing additional renewables in the future." ***(UOG)***

UOG

Photovoltaic panels are being installed on the roof of the UOG School of Education and will supply 10 percent of the building's energy use.

AUTO

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full-scale depression."

The center reported in 2010 that the bailout had saved 1.1 million jobs in 2009.

"It may not have been exactly the right way to do it, but it had to be done ...," Cole adds. "It really was too big to fail."

The auto bailout had winners and losers. Some towns lost plants; Kokomo's were saved.

"I feel we were given a lifeline," says the mayor, who thanked the president when he visited Kokomo in 2010. "But do we now sit back in our easy chairs and say Chrysler's good for the next five, 10 years? No. ... We can't become content with just that. This is our chance to build on top of it."

There's much building to do. Unemployment in Kokomo—home to nearly 57,000 people—tops 10 percent and a network of local food pantries serves 1,100 families a month, mostly in the city, compared with 400 in the pre-recession days. Home foreclosure sales remain high.

But the real estate market is stronger; the average housing price in recent months has topped $70,000. The United Way's community campaign last year raised almost $1.8 million—$80,000 more than its goal. More than 20 businesses have opened or expanded since 2010.

A new regional Fed Ex hub is due to open soon. Local and federal funds have been used to improve downtown, launch a public transit system, build a park pavilion, buy foreclosed homes, rehab and sell them to low-income buyers, then use the proceeds to demolish an abandoned factory and build townhouses.

And yet, there's still a wariness among some autoworkers.

"I think it's too early to say that it's completely worked," says Brian Hecht, an 18-year Chrysler veteran and third-generation autoworker. "We need to prove to the taxpayers their loan to us was a good thing to do."

Chrysler and Fiat have paid back all but $1.3 billion of Chrysler's $12.5 billion bailout. And the government has recouped more than $22 billion of its nearly $50 billion GM bailout, after agreeing to take stock in return for most of its investment.

It's that kind of record that makes McKinley, the Chrysler engineer, wonder why there's still any debate.

"At this point," he says, "how could anybody argue that it was the wrong thing to do, because it worked."

Life & Style

Hudson leaves court before grisly photos shown

AP

This courtroom sketch shows Jennifer Hudson right, and her fiance David Otunga looking on in the courtroom during the first day of William Balfour's murder trial at the Cook County Criminal Court in Chicago, Monday, April 23, 2012.

CHICAGO (AP)—The trial of the man charged with murdering three of Jennifer Hudson's family members resumed Tuesday with the Oscar-winner shutting her eyes as a police officer described finding her dead family members and later leaving the courtroom before photos of their bodies were shown.

Hudson watched much of the testimony before getting up and leaving shortly before prosecutors displayed pictures of her mother and brother's bloodied bodies. Prosecutors often let family members know when they will be showing unsettling evidence.

A day after Hudson offered emotional testimony, prosecutors began shifting their focus to presenting crime scene evidence in the case against her former brother-in-law, William Balfour.

Balfour was estranged from his wife, Hudson's sister, at the time of the killings. He has pleaded not guilty to murdering Hudson's mother, brother and 7-year-old nephew.

Several of the photographs showed Hudson's mother, 57-year-old Darnell Donerson, sprawled face down on the floor, with blood staining her white nightgown. Donald Fanelli, the forensics expert who was on the scene the day of the killings, testified that Hudson's mother may have used a broom by her hand in one picture to fend off the attacker.

Other photos showed Hudson's 29-year-old brother, Jason Hudson, with a gunshot wound near his ear, his head still on his pillow as he lay in bed.

Earlier in the day, Hudson hung her head and shut her eyes as Chicago police Sgt. David Dowling described finding her mother's body in the living room with gunshot wounds through her back. Dowling described finding Jason Hudson dead in his bed, with the sheets pulled up as if he had been sleeping.

Jennifer Hudson, wearing a black top and green skirt, sat in a fourth row bench well within view of jurors for much of the day Tuesday.

Another officer testified about the frantic search for Hudson's nephew, Julian King, who was found in an SUV three days later. Prosecutors also played a surveillance video showing Balfour getting out of a car at a gas station near the Hudson house on Chicago's South Side before the killings. Prosecutors are trying to show he was in the area at the time—something Balfour has denied.

As the video played on a courtroom screen, Hudson rested her head on her knees for several minutes.

Prosecutors created a buzz Monday by calling the Oscar winner and "American Idol" finalist as their first witness, but on Tuesday they began getting down to the nitty-gritty of their case.

With no surviving witnesses to the murders, prosecutors must offer overwhelming circumstantial evidence that Balfour committed the grisly crime on Oct. 24, 2008. One challenge will be tying Balfour to the alleged murder weapon, a silver and black .45-calibre handgun.

Prosecutors claim Balfour targeted the family in a horrific act of vindictiveness against his ex-wife. They believe he became enraged by balloons he saw at the home that he thought were from her new boyfriend.

Defense attorneys have said the killing could be connected to alleged drug dealing by Hudson's brother.

Prosecutors contend Balfour went inside the three-story house around 9 a.m. and shot Hudson's mother and brother. Investigators allege he then drove off in Jason Hudson's sport utility vehicle with 7-year-old Julian inside, and later shot the boy in the head as he lay behind a front seat.

Jennifer Hudson took the witness stand for about 30 minutes Monday in sometimes tearful, gut-wrenching testimony. Hudson, who was in Florida at the time of the shootings, spoke of her family and her reaction to her sister, Julia Hudson, telling her in 2006 that she was marrying Balfour.

"None of us wanted her to marry him," the 30-year-old said, her voice cracking as she struggled to hold back tears.

Later, Julia Hudson described how Balfour repeatedly threatened her and her family after she rejected his pleas in May 2008.

If convicted of at least two of the murder counts, Balfour would face a mandatory life sentence.

Ted Nugent pleads guilty in illegal AK bear kill

AP

In this May 1, 2011 file photo, rocker and gun rights advocate Ted Nugent addresses a seminar at the National Rifle Association's 140th convention in Pittsburgh.

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—Rocker and gun rights advocate Ted Nugent pleaded guilty Tuesday to transporting a black bear he illegally killed in Alaska, saying he was sorry for unwittingly violating the law.

"I would never knowingly break any game laws," Nugent told the court. "I'm afraid I was blindsided by this, and I sincerely apologize to everyone for this."

With his plea, the singer and avid hunter followed through with a signed agreement he made with federal prosecutors earlier this month.

Magistrate Judge Michael Thompson accepted the deal at a U.S. District Court hearing in Ketchikan. Nugent and his attorney participated by telephone.

Asked by Thompson if the agreement was clear, Nugent responded: "It is with me, your honor."

According to the document, Nugent illegally shot and killed the bear in May 2009 on Sukkwan Island in southeast Alaska after wounding another bear in a bow hunt. The bow incident counted toward a state seasonal limit of one bear. Nugent and his lawyer, Wayne Anthony Ross, said neither of them knew about that law.

The judge said he wasn't aware of the "sort of one-strike policy" either.

"It probably is not widely known, and if there is a side benefit to the agreement reached here today—since apparently newspapers are interested in Mr. Nugent and his doings—this probably will serve to alert a great many hunters to that very issue and may, in fact, prevent violations in the future and court activity for a whole slew of folks."

The plea agreement says Nugent knowingly possessed and transported the bear in misdemeanor violation of the federal Lacey Act.

Ross said after the hearing that he was unaware of any state charges pending. A database search found no state charges against Nugent.

"It seems to me that would be double dipping," Ross said.

The hunt was filmed for Nugent's Outdoor Channel television show "Spirit of the Wild," according to the plea deal.

Under the agreement, Nugent must pay a $10,000 fine and serve two years of probation, including a special condition that he not hunt or fish in Alaska or on U.S. Forest Service properties for a year. Nugent used a number of bear-baiting sites on Forest Service land during the Alaska hunt, the document said.

He also must create a public service announcement that will be broadcast on his show every second week for a year after approval by a representative of the U.S. Attorney's Office.

Nugent told the court he wanted to make numerous PSAs to keep the interest level up, "so it's not just the same statement." Thompson said that would be fine, as long as the PSAs were approved before airing.

The musician famed for his 1977 hit "Cat Scratch Fever" also must pay the state $600 for the bear that was taken illegally.

Nugent briefly drew the attention of the Secret Service last week after he rallied support for Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney and said of the Obama administration: "We need to ride into that battlefield and chop their heads off in November."

His comments were made during a National Rifle Association meeting in St. Louis.

Hollywood, Silicon Valley need unity, leader says

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Chris Dodd, the head of the Motion Picture Association of America, said Tuesday that Hollywood and Silicon Valley must work together to protect intellectual property.

Silicon Valley has likely succeeded in killing anti-piracy legislation at least until after the 2012 elections, said Dodd, whose remarks came at CinemaCon, a Las Vegas convention for theater owners.

Instead, reform must come by improving Hollywood's relationship with Silicon Valley by stressing the havoc pirated films can wreak on consumers, creative leaders and the many blue-collar workers who make up the movie industry, Dodd said.

"Content needs technology, technology needs content, and the idea that somehow there is a loser in all of this, it's beyond my imagination why people are insisting on that," Dodd said.

A massive campaign by Web giants Wikipedia and Google and their millions of users saw Congress indefinitely postpone legislation in January to stop online piracy of movies and music costing U.S. companies billions of dollars each year. The move was largely seen as a victory for Silicon Valley over Hollywood.

The two bills sought to allow the Justice Department and copyright holders to seek court orders against foreign websites accused of copyright infringement. They also would forbid search engines from linking to such sites.

Opponents said the reforms would result in censorship and stifle innovation.

The MPAA, which represents the major film studios, has been a leading advocate for anti-piracy legislation. Dodd joined the MPAA last year after representing Connecticut in the U.S. Senate for 30 years.

In Las Vegas, Dodd said the number of illegal videos taken of movies in theaters declined by 50 percent since 2007, but noted that consumers in the U.S. and Canada need constant incentives to see films on the big screen and not in the comfort of their homes.

"One third of the public in the U.S. and in Canada no longer goes to the movies," he said. "We need to bring them back."

Dodd said proponents of anti-piracy legislation should have done a better job of talking about the consequences of copyright fraud, such as identify theft.

"The truth is that neither the content nor the technology industries could survive without strong protections for intellectual property," he said.

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The Lucky One

Friday		4:25	7:25	9:40
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25	9:40
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25	
Monday thru Thursday		4:25	7:25	

Zac Efron, Taylor Schilling
Drama • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

An Iraq War veteran searches for the woman from a mysterious photo that he credits with saving his life during three tours of duty in this romantic drama adapted from the book by Nicholas Sparks. U.S. Marine sergeant Logan Thibault (Zac Efron) was serving his country overseas when he happened across a discarded photo of a beautiful woman. An inscription on the back read "Keep Safe," yet the photo revealed no clues about either the subject or her whereabouts. Upon returning home to civilian life, Logan conducts his own research and discovers that the woman's name is Beth (Taylor Schilling) and that she cares for dogs at a small-town kennel. Before long, Logan manages to get a job at the kennel, and sets his sights on winning Beth's heart. But it won't be easy because Beth's past experiences have made her wary of relationships. Meanwhile, as Logan works to earn Beth's trust, a dark secret from her past threatens to derail his hope for a happy future together.

★ ★ ★

Three Stooges

Friday		4:10	7:10	9:30
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10	9:30
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10	
Monday thru Thursday		4:10	7:10	

Will Sasso, Sean Hayes, Chris Diamantopoulos
Comedy • Rated PG

The Cabin In The Woods

Friday		4:15	7:15	9:55
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15	9:55
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15	
Monday thru Thursday		4:15	7:15	

Richard Jenkins, Bradley Whitford
Thriller • Rated R

American Reunion

Friday		4:05	7:05	9:45
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05	9:45
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05	
Monday thru Thursday		4:05	7:05	

Jason Biggs, Alyson Hannigan
Comedy • Rated R

Wrath Of The Titans

Friday		4:20	7:20	9:35
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:20	9:35
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20	
Monday thru Thursday		4:20	7:20	

Sam Worthington, Liam Neeson
Fantasy • Rated PG 13

Mirror Mirror

Friday		4:30	7:30	9:50
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30	9:50
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30	
Monday thru Thursday		4:30	7:30	

Julia Roberts, Lily Collins
Fantasy • Rated PG

The Hunger Games

Friday		4:00	7:00	10:00
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	10:00
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Monday thru Thursday		4:00	7:00	

Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson
Science fiction • Rated PG 13

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First Look: 'Dark Knight Rises' promises violence

LAS VEGAS (AP)—This isn't your father's Caped Crusader.

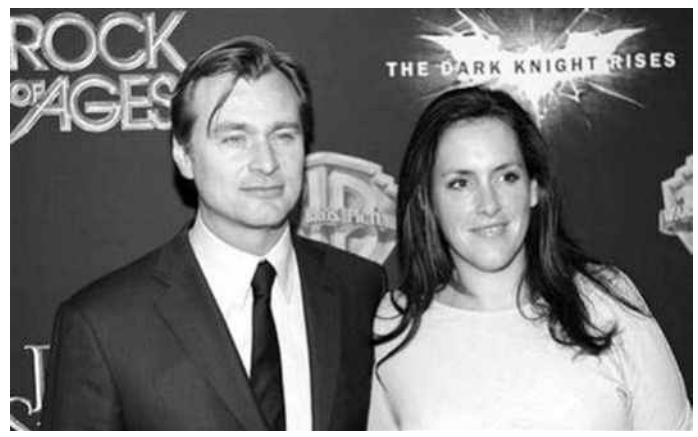
Christopher Nolan's latest Batman flick features an injured Bruce Wayne leaning on a cane, Anne Hathaway in red lips and a leather body suit as Catwoman, and a Gotham City football game interrupted by explosions and mayhem.

Nolan unveiled footage from "The Dark Knight Rises" on Tuesday at CinemaCon, a Las Vegas conference for theater owners.

The various scenes showed collapsing bridges, rolling army tanks and Christian Bale returning as an older, more weathered Batman. Michael Caine, Gary Oldman and Morgan Freeman are also reprising their previous roles in the franchise.

Nolan, known on set as "the governor," said he wanted to finish his interpretation of the classic Batman story "in the biggest way possible."

"We've been working on this story for nine years," he said. "And so it's with mixed feelings that we finish this thing."



AP

Christopher Nolan, left, director, co-writer and co-producer of the upcoming film "The Dark Knight Rises," poses with his wife Emma Thomas, also a co-producer of the film, backstage at CinemaCon 2012, the official convention of the National Association of Theater Owners, Tuesday, April 24, 2012, in Las Vegas.

Nolan said his goal was to create a "spectacle" that makes viewers excited the moment they enter a theater.

"What defines cinema, and what gets people out of the house to watch it is spectacle," he said. Newcomers for the third installment in the franchise include Hathaway, Marion Cotillard, Tom Hardy and Joseph Gordon-Levitt. Gordon-Levitt, Hardy and Cotillard also appeared in Nolan's 2010 film "Inception."

The preview Tuesday was dark, like so many scenes in Nolan's Batman vision.

It opened with images of the villain, a masked Hardy, terrorizing a plane. There were frenzied police and streets of rubble.

Hathaway was featured heavily. Her lithe body screamed femme fatale in a series of black, tight outfits. In one scene, she appeared to be working as maid at Wayne Manor. As she fled the mansion, she ripped off the dainty, white collar of her maid costume.

In his full superhero garb, Bale sped down an urban landscape in his Batcycle. In another scene, he shared a kiss with Cotillard.

The film is being shot in India, England, Scotland and domestically in New York, Los Angeles and Pittsburgh.

The preview seemed to inspire some envy in fellow director Adam Shankman, who followed Nolan during Warner Bros.' film presentation Tuesday.

Shankman, who was promoting the musical "Rock of Ages," told the audience: "I'm older than he is, but I want to be Christopher Nolan when I grow up."

"The Dark Knight Rises" is slated for release on July 20, 2012.

The previous two films include "Batman Begins" and "The Dark Knight."

Peter Jackson unveils 'Hobbit' scenes

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Peter Jackson's "The Hobbit" is preparing to leave the shire.

The director of the Oscar-winning "Lord of the Rings" trilogy previewed 10 minutes of assorted footage Tuesday from his upcoming prequel.

"The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey," is being filmed in New Zealand using more frames per second than the Hollywood standard. Jackson said in a video introduction that using 48 frames per second produces a smoother image.

The movie could usher in a new era of filmmaking and require film houses across the globe to embrace digital technology.

Jackson said the human eye no longer sees individual pictures under the faster speed, but a steady stream of clear images.

"The movement feels more real," Jackson said while introducing his film at the CinemaCon convention for theater owners on the Las Vegas Strip. "It's much more gentle on the eyes."

Indeed, the footage was vivid, with grass blades, facial lines and soaring mountains appearing luminous and pronounced. The actors looked almost touchable, as if they were performing live on stage.

It's unclear what the final product will look like when it's released in December. Jackson said he was still editing the movie and the shared footage included green screens that will eventually be used to add in scenery, action or special effects.

Other digital pioneers are making the same push for higher film speeds. "Avatar" creator James Cameron has promised to shoot the sequel to his science-fiction blockbuster at 48 or 60 frames a second.

Jackson warned the new approach would take time to adjust to. Some bloggers agreed, quickly branding the footage released Tuesday as a failure in digital technology. The critics claimed the unfinished scenes looked like a low-budget TV show.

British actor Martin Freeman stars as Bilbo Baggins, the hobbit who acquires the evil ring that sets the action of "The Lord of the Rings" in motion.

Hong Kong's Eason Chan makes history in London

LONDON (AP)—Hong Kong pop singer Eason Chan has good reason to love London—he's become the first Chinese performer to play the city's O2 arena, starring in his sold-out DUO Concert.

Some 12,000 fans descended upon the iconic venue in the British capital Monday night to hear Chan perform twenty five songs from his Mandarin and Cantonese repertoire.

In an interview before the concert, the 37-year-old singer said he was surprised and pleased to have so much international support.

"I never thought I had so many fans in Europe. I heard people are coming from Belgium, Germany, France and Luxembourg and Spain," he said.

"Maybe they're bored," Chan added, joking.

Chan's DUO World Tour, which began in September 2010 in Singapore and has continued across Australia, Asia, Canada and the United States, has an unofficial slogan: "Who the hell is Eason Chan?"

The singer says that was the question a ticket seller asked after he sold out the O2 Arena in around 20 minutes and crashed the venue's servers.

AP

In this Saturday, June 14, 2008 file photo Hong Kong singer Eason Chan performs during his "Eason's Moving On" live concert in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Millions of fans already know the answer: Chan has released 30-plus solo albums and is one of the best-selling Mandarin and Cantonese pop artists.

"It doesn't matter what language you sing in, what makes it universal is the energy that you give out," said Chan.

Flying Burrito Brothers member Ethridge dies at 65

MERIDIAN, Miss. (AP)—John Christopher "Chris" Ethridge II, a Mississippi-born musician, bassist and songwriter who was a founding member of the 1960s country-rock band "The Flying Burrito Brothers," has died. He was 65.

Officials with Robert Barham Family Funeral Home said Tuesday that Ethridge died Monday at Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian. The family said in a statement that Ethridge had been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in September.

Born and raised in Meridian, Ethridge moved to Los Angeles when he was 17.

Ethridge collaborated with another seminal Southern music figure, Gram Parsons, on several projects, including the Flying Burrito Brothers and the International Submarine Band, and he co-wrote several of Parsons' solo tunes.

Ethridge spent eight years on the road with Willie Nelson and can be heard on the country legend's "Whiskey River."

Nelson wrote in a tweet Monday, "(Willie Nelson and Friends) are sad to hear of the passing of Family member & friend Chris Ethridge he was a talented musician & we were honored to call him Family."

With Joel Scott Hill and John Barbata, Ethridge recorded in the L.A. Getaway, which many rock critics hail as one of the great, lost 1970s rock albums.

In later years, Ethridge played with many music luminaries, including Jackson Browne, Linda Ronstadt and Ry Cooder, both as a session musician and touring player.

Services will be held Wednesday in Meridian.

E! network, Kardashians sign new reality show deal

NEW YORK (AP)—The Kardashian family will continue living life on TV for the next three years.

The E! Entertainment network said Tuesday it had reached a deal with its most bankable franchise to make three more seasons of "Keeping Up With the Kardashians." Terms were not disclosed.

The sixth season of the show averaged 3 million viewers on Sunday nights, the cable networks' top series. Five of the 10 most-watched shows in the network's history, in fact, involved the Kardashians. The 18-episode seventh season begins on May 20.

E! said the entire family is covered by the deal: Kim, Kourtney and Rob Kardashian, Khloe Kardashian Odom, and Bruce, Kris, Kendall and Kylie Jenner. E! will continue to have the first crack at any spinoff projects.

E! has turned the Kardashians into a mini-empire, with spinoff series like "Kourtney and Kim Take New York" and "Khloe and Lamar." Although E! retains the first right to these spinoffs, Tuesday's deal does not specify how many more will be made.

The network would also not say whether musician Kanye West would be included in the series. West and Kim Kardashian have been seen together lately amid reports that they are a new couple.

Kim's elaborate wedding—and brief marriage to—basketball player Kris Humphries was a highlight of E!'s programming last fall. The network had to put out a statement denying rumors that the wedding was orchestrated for TV.

AP

In this Aug. 17, 2011 file photo, from left, Khloe Kardashian, Kylie Jenner, Kris Jenner, Kourtney Kardashian, Kim Kardashian, and Kendall Jenner arrive at the Kardashian Kollection launch party in Los Angeles.

Chris Brown adds puppy selling to his resume

AP

In this Feb. 12, 2012 photo, Chris Brown accepts the award for best R&B album for "F.A.M.E." during the 54th annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles.

NEW YORK (AP)—Chris Brown is delivering more than hit songs—he's selling puppies.

A rep for the singer confirmed Tuesday that Brown is selling two-month-old pit bull puppies on a website. Maureen O'Connor called Brown an animal lover and says the pups were born to dogs he keeps at his family home in Virginia. She says he's simply selling them to make sure they go to good homes, and it's not going to be a new business for the star.

Brown's mother on Sunday tweeted a link to the site, which shows Brown cuddling a puppy. He's selling them for $1,000 each, and the site guarantees their health, shots, registration and more.

AP

In this theater image released by Jeffrey Richards Associates, Jennifer Lim, left, and Gary Wilmes are shown during a performance of "Chinglish," in New York.

Filmmaker acquires rights to 'Chinglish'

NEW YORK (AP)—Plans are in the works to bring David Henry Hwang's "Chinglish" to a movie screen.

The filmmaker Justin Lin, who has directed several of the "Fast and Furious" movies, announced Tuesday that he has acquired film rights to Hwang's play about an East-meets-West collision.

"Chinglish" tells the story of a businessman from Ohio who goes to China to expand his business but struggles to be understood and falls in love with a Chinese woman.

Hwang, who won a Tony Award as writer of "M. Butterfly," will write the "Chinglish" screenplay and is set to co-produce the film with Bobbi Thompson. Lin, who also has directed the film "Better Luck Tomorrow," will direct and co-produce. The play opened in October and played 109 total performances.

Jack White to compose 'The Lone Ranger' score

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Walt Disney Pictures has wrangled Jack White to compose the score for "The Lone Ranger."

The studio announced Tuesday that the Grammy-winning rocker will write, produce and perform the score for director Gore Verbinski's upcoming adaptation of "The Lone Ranger."

"The Lone Ranger" will mark The White Stripes frontman's first time scoring a feature film. The film stars Johnny Depp as Tonto and Armie Hammer as John Reid. It is set to debut May 31, 2013.

White's first solo album, "Blunderbuss," was released Tuesday. He previously wrote and performed the theme song to the 2008 James Bond film "Quantum of Solace" with Alicia Keys.

In this June 24, 2011 file photo, Jack White signs copies of the record he made with Stephen Colbert in New York.

AP

Foo Fighters, Pearl Jam, TI headline Music Midtown

ATLANTA (AP)—Foo Fighters, Pearl Jam, T.I. and Ludacris will headline two days of concerts in September at Atlanta's Music Midtown.

Organizers of the music festival announced on Tuesday that the event will take place at Piedmont Park. The musicians are slated to perform from Sept. 21-22.

The two-day concert marks the second straight year Music Midtown will be held after a five-year break. Coldplay and Black Keys headlined the one-day festival last year.

This year's lineup also will feature Florence and The Machine, The Avett Brothers, Joan Jett, The Blackhearts, Girl Talk, Civil Twilight, LP and O'Brother.

Tickets go on sale April 28 and start at $100 for a two-day festival pass.

Dad who wants to be in kids' loop must try a little harder

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: "Modern Dad in Roswell, Ga." (Feb. 26) was put off that invitations to his young daughters are sent to his ex-wife's home rather than to both his and the ex-wife's. He assumes the sender is "sexist" and suggests the solution for children with two households is to be sent two invitations.

As a parent who invites children to my home or to a party, I don't feel I should be responsible for their parents' communication difficulty. Often I am not even aware that a child has two households. The invitation simply goes home with the child to wherever he or she is that day.

Personally, I think "Modern Dad" is overly sensitive. He needs to realize that no one is deliberately snubbing him or making assumptions about parental roles. They are just inviting his kids to things, for which he should be grateful. Did he share his address with the inviter? Does he make his preference clear to parents when meeting them?

I believe it's presumptuous to expect someone to send two invitations to the same child. And I agree with you, Abby, that "Dad" needs to improve communication with his ex-wife so he no longer feels he is being prevented from being an "active parent."

REGULAR MOM IN TENNESSEE

DEAR REGULAR MOM: A majority of readers agreed that more sharing of information between the girls' mother and "Dad" will solve his problem. Other parents' comments:

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Friends, acquaintances and professionals should not have to go out of their way to cover all the bases. Given the number of divorced, remarried and otherwise situated families, more than a single contact point becomes burdensome for those trying to complete business or issue simple invitations.

My guess is, even though the girls stay with Dad, he doesn't have relationships with most of their friends' parents. Unless he cultivates these connections (with the mothers, most likely), it is improbable that he will be added to the contact list.

CHALLENGED, TOO, IN SEVERNA PARK, MD.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I know from organizing school activities that often only one parent supplies an email address to the school, and it's usually the mom. If "Modern Dad's" ex-wife would cooperate by sending him a list of email addresses of those most likely to issue invites, he could send out a polite message sharing his contact information with those other parents. Also, if he reaches out to help arrange carpools or organize social outings -- which is usually a "mom" job -- he'll become an added member of "the group."

NON-SEXIST MOM IN ILLINOIS

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Our solution to this problem was to use an online computer calendar for the kids' events. That way, regardless of which parent gets the invite, it can be posted on the calendar with the appropriate details. (Privacy settings can be set so the calendar is not viewable to the general public.)

FLORIDA FATHER

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My son's school sends out a parent directory that includes both my and my ex-husband's email addresses. I receive a lot of information, including invitations by email, and always see my ex's address included on everything as well. Not having to remind him about parties and school events has taken a huge load off my shoulders. Maybe "Dad" can suggest his daughters' school start a parental email list and make sure his information stays updated.

INVOLVED TEXAS MAMA

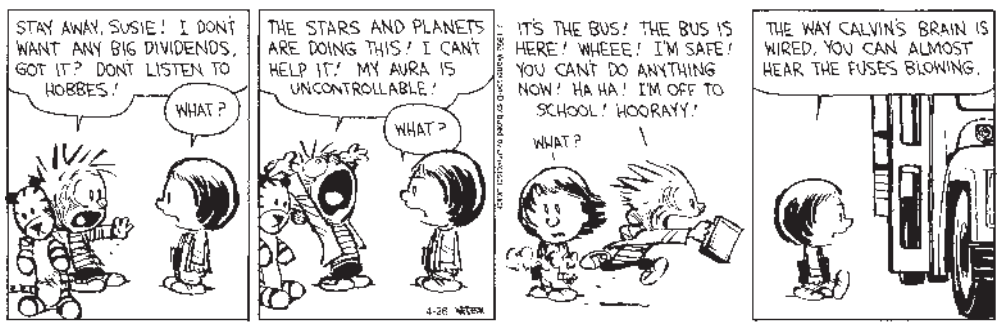
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


STAY AWAY, SUSIE! I DON'T WANT ANY BIG DIVIDENDS, GOT IT? DONT LISTEN TO HOBBES!
WHAT?
THE STARS AND PLANETS ARE DOING THIS! I CAN'T HELP IT! MY AURA IS UNCONTROLLABLE!
WHAT?
IT'S THE BUS! THE BUS IS HERE! WHEEE! I'M SAFE! YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING NOW! HA HA! I'M OFF TO SCHOOL! HOORAYY!
WHAT?
THE WAY CALVIN'S BRAIN IS WIRED, YOU CAN ALMOST HEAR THE FUSES BLOWING.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

PREPARE TO BE SWATTED, BUG!
GO AHEAD. JUST DON'T SIT ON ME
SEE, I SAID THAT 'CAUSE YOU'RE FAT
THERE ISN'T A NEWSPAPER BIG ENOUGH...
JIM DAVIS 4-26
Distributed by Universal Uclick www.facebook.com/garfield
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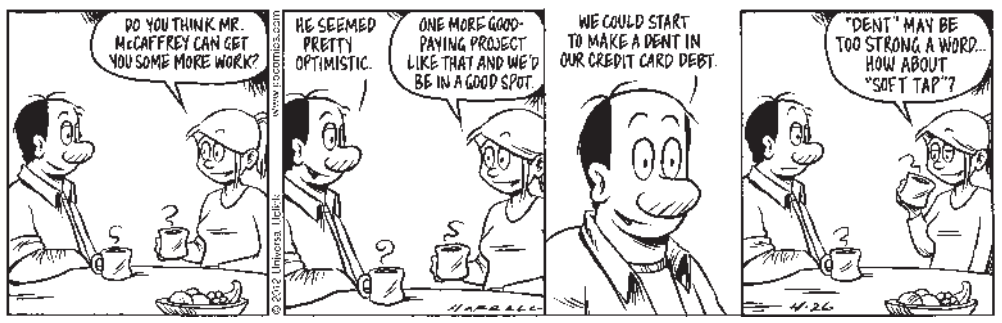
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


DO YOU THINK MR. McCAFFREY CAN GET YOU SOME MORE WORK?
HE SEEMED PRETTY OPTIMISTIC.
ONE MORE GOOD-PAYING PROJECT LIKE THAT AND WE'D BE IN A GOOD SPOT.
WE COULD START TO MAKE A DENT IN OUR CREDIT CARD DEBT.
"DENT" MAY BE TOO STRONG A WORD... HOW ABOUT "SOFT TAP"?
4-26
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The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Labyrinth choice
5 Skillets
9 Half a dance?
12 Lotion additive
13 Fraternal baseball surname
14 Attila, e.g.
15 Unknown people
17 Pismire
18 Evening affair
19 Depend (on)
21 "And this should matter to me ... why?"
22 Object
24 "National Treasure" star
27 Chart format
28 Superman's alias
31 Melody
32 Corroded
33 "Go, team!"
34 Let the cat out of the bag
36 Badly
37 Pale
38 Aristocratic
40 Ego counterpart
41 Queenly
43 Small beard
47 Have bills
48 Puts on the line
51 "— the ramparts ..."
52 About half the children
53 Tiger Woods' ex
54 "— Dalloway"
55 Trade
56 Logical

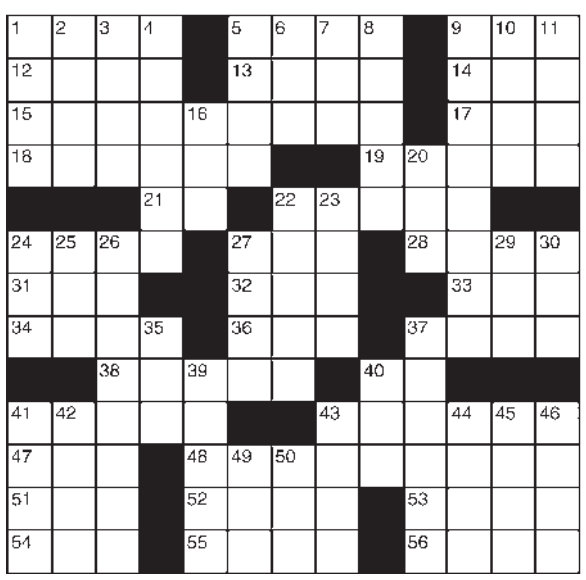
DOWN

1 Quarterback's throw
2 Choir member
3 Actress Spelling
4 Last car?
5 Senate employee
6 Hearty brew
7 Neither mate
8 Some Japanese fare
9 They make alterations
10 Suspended
11 Initial stake
16 Ultra-modernist
20 Squid squirt
22 Marquee datum
23 Command to Rover
24 "Cash —"
25 Have something
26 Farmers
27 Bucket
29 "Unh-unh"
30 Your
35 Feathery accessory
37 Saws
39 Consecrate
40 Charged bit
41 Leeway
42 Basin accessory
43 React in horror
44 Anatomical tissue
45 Ireland
46 Slave to crosswords?
49 Without delay
50 "CSI" evidence

Solution time: 25 mins.

N	A	S	A	■	M	O	D	■	C	Y	A	N
E	G	A	D	■	O	R	R	■	H	A	L	E
W	A	R	D	R	O	B	E	■	A	R	E	A
T	R	I	T	O	N	■	S	P	I	D	E	R
■	■	■	O	S	I	■	S	A	S	S	■	■
D	A	H	■	E	N	D	■	S	E	A	M	Y
A	L	A	S	■	G	Y	M	■	S	L	O	E
B	I	R	C	H	■	C	A	R	■	C	A	T
■	■	■	D	I	E	D	■	T	A	T	■	■
S	P	H	E	R	E	■	U	N	I	T	E	D
E	L	A	N	■	C	A	R	D	G	A	M	E
H	O	I	C	■	A	P	E	■	E	R	I	N
A	P	S	E	■	L	P	S	■	R	O	T	S

Yesterday's answer 4-26



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99c per minute. touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Channing Tatum, 32; Tom Welling, 35; Kevin James, 47; Carol Burnett, 79.

Happy Birthday: Put more emphasis on what you can accomplish. Complaining will not help you gain the confidence of those around you. Strive for stability and greater security, and refuse to let emotional matters impede you or lead you astray. The choices you make now will influence your life for years to come. Your numbers are 8, 17, 20, 25, 33, 44, 47.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Curb your response. You don't want to come across as unpredictable or difficult to deal with. Emotions will be hard to control, and it's important that you lead with charm, grace and good intentions if you want others to respond favorably. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Do something nice for someone you love and you will get something nice in return. Sharing, caring and participating will lead to a host of new opportunities and friendships. Aggressive pursuits will pay off and show your leadership ability. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Do something that will lift your spirits or build your confidence. A personal change to your image or the way you do things will draw positive attention. Avoid emotional situations that can lead to unfounded guilt and unnecessary handouts. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You'll find it hard to keep the peace. Don't let someone's lack of tact pull you into an argument. Take the high road and focus on creative projects that will enhance the way people view you and what you have to offer. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Make changes that enhance your position. You can do things your way if you can prove you have a better strategy in place. Your input will be met with opposition, but if you use a little Leo charm you will win the battle. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You have the knowledge and expertise to turn any situation in your favor. Get busy making things happen instead of just thinking about it. Call in favors from people you have worked with in the past and something interesting will develop. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You'll have plenty to think about and discuss when it comes to personal or professional partnerships. Iron out any problems before you move forward or spend money that can add to your stress. Love is in the stars. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Invest in a plan that allows you to use your skills and knowledge strategically. Networking will lead to an opportunity to expand something you are already interested in pursuing. Don't let someone's jealousy stand between you and your goals. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Put more time and effort into your home, family, and most of all, your love life. It's important that you are on the same page when it comes to personal changes that can alter your lifestyle. Compromise will satisfy everyone involved. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You can learn from someone else's mistake. An investment, residential move or expansion of personal interests will play a positive role in your future plans. Expect someone from your past to have an influence on the choices you make. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Discuss your plans for the future and make lifestyle changes that are conducive to greater security and stabilization. It's up to you to call the shots and make the adjustments required to reach your goals. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Let experience help you make better personal choices. Avoid getting into a no-win situation that ends in a loss of friendship. Reconnect with people you miss or have lost touch with. Express your regrets and your hopes for the future. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, proud, creative and hardworking. You are a humanitarian.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

4								9
	5			3			2	
	1		4		2		6	
8		1				5		3
7		9				4		2
	2		8		3		9	
	9			5			4	
3								8

Difficulty Level ★★★ 4/26

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	2	5	6	1	9	4	7	3
9	6	4	5	3	7	2	1	8
1	7	3	8	2	4	6	5	9
2	3	8	1	9	6	5	4	7
4	1	7	3	5	8	9	6	2
6	5	9	7	4	2	3	8	1
3	9	1	4	7	5	8	2	6
5	8	2	9	6	1	7	3	4
7	4	6	2	8	3	1	9	5

Difficulty Level ★★★ 4/25

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

POST-IT NOTES **Solution: 8 letters**

P	F	R	P	E	R	A	U	Q	S	G	R	S	Q	P
S	E	A	E	S	E	Z	I	S	L	E	E	U	U	A
S	D	R	N	M	M	L	C	U	F	B	I	P	O	P
S	H	R	S	F	I	H	E	I	U	C	O	A	T	E
T	Y	E	A	O	O	N	L	C	K	P	H	C	E	R
A	N	E	E	O	N	L	D	E	T	O	S	K	S	S
T	M	O	L	T	B	A	D	E	M	R	K	S	H	A
I	E	D	I	L	S	H	L	E	R	T	O	S	C	T
O	M	C	E	T	O	R	S	I	D	S	O	N	N	T
N	O	A	I	L	N	W	E	A	Z	E	B	O	I	A
A	S	C	D	F	C	E	A	K	D	E	S	L	L	C
R	K	E	I	K	F	Y	T	L	R	A	D	I	U	H
Y	R	L	I	S	T	O	C	T	L	A	E	G	G	E
S	E	E	D	E	N	I	L	E	A	S	M	R	S	N
S	P	O	T	D	O	O	R	S	R	O	R	R	I	M

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Yesterday's Answer: Envelope

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ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re Estate of	]	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 97-1061**
GEORGE A. MANGLONA Deceased,	]	**THIRD AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on March 11, 2009, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of the Estate of George A. Manglona in and to the following property:

1. Lot 002 T 25. The Estate owns an area of 921 square meters or less, in fee simple, subject to a lease expiring on October 27, 2042.
2. Lot 114 T 16. The Estate owns this lot in fee simple, subject to lease expiring on September 18, 2044
3. Lot 057 T18. This lot contains an area of 10,000 square meters, and is owned by the Estate in fee simple.
4. Lot 006 T 186. The Estate owns a leasehold interest in this lot, which expires on June 18, 2046. No further rental in due under the lease.
5. Lot 008 T 85. This lot contains an area of 901 square meters. The Estate owns a leasehold interest in the lot, which expires on July 21, 2047. No further rent is due.
6. Lot 006 T 17. The Estate owns this lot in fee simple, subject to a lease expiring on October 8, 2049.
7. Lot 035 T 18. The Estate owns an undivided 992 square meters of this lot, in fee simple.
8. Lot 035 T 19. This lot contains an area of 4,000 square meters, and is owned by the Estate in fee simple.
9. Lot 114 T 18. The Estate owns this lot in fee simple, subject to a prepaid lease expiring on September 18, 2044.

All of these properties are situated in Tinian, Northern Mariana Islands. All sales are subject to court approval.

Preliminary title reports are available for inspection at the office of the undersigned, by appointment only.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, May 4, 2012, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 5th day of April, 2012:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F-0122
Attorney for Administrator

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ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

CITY TRUST BANK, Plaintiff, -v- **AMALIA DIAZ TEREGEYO, aka DEBRA AMALIA DIAZ TEREGEYO; VICENTE TILIPAO TEREGEYO; and JOSE DLG. DIAZ,** Defendants.	]	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0101** **NOTICE OF SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on April 12, 2012, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 041 E 18 (formerly part of Lot 041 E 06, which was part of original lot 041 E 01), situated in Talafofo, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 1,050 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 041 E 03, the original of which was recorded 14 February 1995, as Document No. 95-356, at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, May 25, 2012, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 17th day of April, 2012:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

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Metta World Peace suspended 7 games for elbow

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. (AP)—The NBA responded to Metta World Peace's latest act of aggression with a seven-game suspension that will lighten the Los Angeles Lakers troublemaker's wallet and playoff schedule.

World Peace was suspended Tuesday for throwing a vicious elbow at Oklahoma City's James Harden, keeping the Lakers' starting small forward sidelined for most of the first postseason round.

World Peace was ejected from Sunday's game against the Thunder for striking Harden in the head with the back of his elbow, giving Oklahoma City's top reserve a concussion. The former Ron Artest claimed the blow was an accidental, overzealous celebration of a dunk, yet even Kobe Bryant and his Lakers teammates weren't defending his inexplicable actions.

"It's hard to get into a guy's head and know exactly what happened in that situation," Bryant said. "I haven't really spoken to him about it. You've really got to ask him."

AP
The Lakers' Metta World Peace, left, throws a vicious elbow at Oklahoma City's James Harden during an NBA game on April 22, 2012, Sunday, in Los Angeles.

World Peace will miss the Lakers' season finale on Thursday at Sacramento and the Lakers' next six games. The playoffs open Saturday, and Los Angeles is likely to be the Western Conference's third seed - and Oklahoma City is locked into the No. 2 seed, meaning the clubs could meet right after World Peace's suspension ends in the second round.

He will lose nearly $348,000 in salary if he serves the entire suspension this year. If the Lakers exit the playoffs swiftly, the remainder of the suspension must be served next season.

World Peace still hasn't answered media questions about his actions, but he issued a brief statement on his website, promising to follow up with a podcast.

"I apologize to the Oklahoma City Thunder fans and the OKC organization," World Peace wrote on ronartest.com. "I look foward (sic) to getting back on the floor with my teammates and competing for the Lakers fans."

Commissioner David Stern alluded to Artest's lengthy history of on-court altercations and strange behavior in announcing the penalty in a statement. Although Harden appears to be recovering well, he hasn't been cleared to return to the Thunder.

"The concussion suffered by James Harden demonstrates the danger posed by violent acts of this kind, particularly when they are directed at the head area," Stern said in a statement. "We remain committed to taking necessary measures to protect the safety of NBA players, including the imposition of appropriate penalties for players with a history of on-court altercations."

Lakers general manager Mitch Kupchak said the team accepted the latest suspension for World Peace, who has two years left on his contract with Los Angeles.

"His most recent lapse in judgment is not to be condoned or accepted," Kupchak said after praising World Peace as largely a model citizen with the Lakers.

"His actions could have seriously injured another player, and his absence during this suspension will hurt our team as well," Kupchak added. "While we accept the league's decision, we will be supportive of Metta and try to help him be more professional on the court."

The suspension is the third career ban of at least seven games for Artest, whose rap sheet might not fit on a basketball card at this point.

He got an 86-game suspension in 2004 - the longest ban for an on-court incident in NBA history - for jumping into the stands at the Palace of Auburn Hills in the Detroit suburbs to fight fans, and he served a seven-game suspension in 2007 for his no-contest plea on a domestic violence charge.

Even before his odd decision to change his name to promote peace last year, he had largely rehabilitated his image during three seasons with the Lakers, winning the NBA's top citizenship award last spring for his charity work in mental-health awareness. Yet World Peace also slammed his forearm into the face of Dallas guard J.J. Barea in the closing minutes of a home playoff loss to the Mavericks last season, earning a one-game postseason suspension.

World Peace leveled Harden moments after dunking over Serge Ibaka and Kevin Durant in the second quarter of the Lakers' double-overtime victory over the Thunder. While pounding his chest with his right arm, World Peace cocked his elbow and threw it at the back and side of Harden's head.

He claimed the elbow was completely accidental in a brief postgame statement, but later acknowledged on Twitter that the blow "looks bad."

World Peace didn't speak to the media after the Lakers' practice Tuesday, heading to the locker room at the moment media members entered the gym at the Lakers' training complex. But Bryant acknowledged the obvious problem for the Lakers, who lose a starter and their defensive stopper right before the postseason.

"It's an unfortunate situation," Bryant said. "James, from what I hear, is OK. As far as Metta goes, he has to focus on himself, and however many games they give him, they give him. He just has to be prepared, and when he comes back, just step right in and be ready to go."

Bryant and the Lakers are clearly torn between supporting a teammate and recoiling from World Peace's actions. Harden and Bryant are friends.

Almost to a man, the reaction from Oklahoma City was similar.

From general manager Sam Presti to coach Scott Brooks to NBA scoring leader Kevin Durant and the players, the Thunder responded that they were more concerned about Harden than the suspension.

"The league did it. You've got to live with it," Durant said, echoing the sentiments of his coach and GM. "We can move past it now. We're just worried about getting James back in the locker room."

Center Kendrick Perkins was the lone exception.

"Just a play that was uncalled for," he said. "He could have seriously injured somebody, so I do think it was fair. Obviously, they looked at it a few times because it took them a couple days to finally give the suspension."

Perkins added that "if he could go back and change the hands of time, he would take that play back."

"It's just not good for our league, especially on a national TV game," Perkins said. "That highlight's going to just keep getting played. We don't want to be labeled as that type of league."

Brooks wouldn't weigh in on the possibility World Peace could return from suspension for a second-round matchup with the Thunder.

"I'm not concerned with who we play, as long as we play as hard as we can and play to the best of our abilities," Brooks said. "You can't focus on matchups. You can't focus on individual players."

Lakers coach Mike Brown, who professed ignorance of what happened after the game, said he finally viewed a replay and spoke with World Peace about it briefly, but said he didn't attempt an in-depth evaluation of what World Peace was thinking.

Jazz drop Suns 100-88, secure playoff spot

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—Paul Millsap scored 26 points and Al Jefferson went on a personal 8-0 fourth-quarter run as the Utah Jazz defeated the Phoenix Suns 100-88 Tuesday night to secure a Western Conference playoff spot.

The victory halted Utah's seven-game losing streak to the Suns, dating to March 2010.

Jared Dudley and Michael Redd scored 15 apiece for Phoenix, and Hakim Warrick had 12 for the Suns, who were without forward Channing Frye because of a shoulder injury.

The Suns won the season series but can't catch the Jazz with just one game remaining. Utah can still claim the No. 7 seed if Denver loses its final two games.

The Suns trailed 85-80 when Jefferson scored eight straight to put the game out of reach.

Jefferson finished with 18 points and 16 rebounds.

Celtics 78, Heat 66

In Boston, with much more to lose in potential injuries than gain with another victory, the Boston Celtics and Miami Heat let their reserves decide the second-to-last game of the regular season.

Rest and recovery were of much greater importance as both teams looked ahead to the postseason and patched together lineups that hardly resembled last year's second-round playoff series.

The result was sloppy at times, but turned into a relatively even matchup before the seldom-used Celtics rallied for a 78-66 win over the starless Heat on Tuesday night.

Sasha Pavlovic led Boston with a season-high 16 points, scoring 12 in the fourth quarter as the Celtics pulled away by shooting 50 percent (11 for 22) in the period and forcing Miami into eight of its season-high 25 turnovers.

"Well, someone had to win the game and we did, which was really nice," Boston coach Doc Rivers said. "You know, these games are still important, probably for both teams."

But not important enough to risk anybody's playoff status.

LeBron James, Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh were out for the Heat. Ray Allen, Kevin Garnett and Rajon Rondo didn't play for the Celtics.

Hawks 109, Clippers 102

In Atlanta, Joe Johnson scored 28 points, including a wild 3-pointer in the final minute, and the Atlanta Hawks held on for a 109-102 victory over the Los Angeles Clippers on Tuesday night, moving a step closer to wrapping up home-court in the first round of the playoffs.

Blake Griffin scored a season-high 36 points, while Chris Paul added 34 in a back-and-forth game in which neither team led by double figures until the Hawks went on a 15-2 run at the end of the third quarter, sparked by Jeff Teague and Josh Smith.

Johnson clinched it with a pair of 3s, knocking down a desperation shot with 38 seconds remaining and the shot clock running down. He threw up a two-handed heave that somehow banked in, giving the Hawks a 103-96 lead.

The score was tied at 70 when the Hawks took control. Teague scored seven straight points and got the best of his fellow Wake Forest guard at the defensive end, stuffing Paul on a drive to the hoop.

Teague stood over the Clippers' star, smiling, but there was no bad blood. Paul hopped up to give the Hawks' player a pat on the backside.

Hornets 83, Warriors 81

In Oakland, Golden State's Chris Wright was called for goaltending on Marco Belinelli's layup with 0.7 seconds remaining, and the New Orleans Hornets beat the Warriors 83-81 Tuesday night.

Greivis Vazquez blocked Charles Jenkins' layup to start a fast break in the final seconds. He pushed the ball ahead to a wide-open Belinelli, whose layup touched the backboard and was on its way down before Wright hustled over for the illegal swat.

In an odd scene, many Warriors fans were actually cheering for the Hornets.

Golden State has to finish in the bottom seven of the league after the draft lottery to keep its protected first-round pick, acquired by Utah in a previous trade. The Warriors are eighth worst in the league entering Thursday night's season finale at home against San Antonio.

Thunder 118, Kings 110

In Oklahoma City, Kevin Durant scored 32 points, reserve Daequan Cook had all 19 of his points in the fourth quarter and the Oklahoma City Thunder beat the Sacramento Kings 118-110 on Tuesday night to win their first game since top bench player James Harden took an elbow to the head.

Durant extended his lead in a tight NBA scoring race with the Los Angeles Lakers' Kobe Bryant despite sitting out the entire fourth quarter in a close game. Durant is averaging 27.97 points per game to Bryant's 27.86 with each having one game left.

Cook filled Harden's void, scoring Oklahoma City's first 14 points of the final period to put the Thunder ahead for the first time since the first quarter.

DeMarcus Cousins, who was allowed to play only after his 13th technical foul was rescinded earlier in the day, led Sacramento with 32 points.

Darvish strikes out 10, Rangers beat Yankees

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Yu Darvish had a season-high 10 strikeouts pitching into the ninth inning and worked out of a couple of jams for the Rangers in a victory over the Yankees and countryman Hiroki Kuroda.

In only the seventh MLB matchup ever of Japanese starters, Darvish (3-0) allowed seven hits and walked a season-low two in 8 1-3 innings. The 10 strikeouts were the most by a Texas pitcher this season.

Ian Kinsler put Texas ahead to stay when he led off the first with a deep homer to left center off Kuroda (1-3), who limited Texas to two runs and five hits over 6 2-3 innings. The 37-year-old right-hander, in his fifth season in the majors, struck out five and walked one.

Indians 4, Royals 3

In Cleveland, Derek Lowe allowed one run over six innings and the Cleveland Indians handed the Kansas City Royals their 12th straight loss, 4-3 on Tuesday night.

The Royals have been outscored 73-44 during the streak, which ties for third-longest in team history. They also lost 12 in a row in 1997 and 2008. Kansas City lost 13 straight in 2006 and had a team-record 19 consecutive losses in 2005.

Cleveland built upon a recently completed 7-2 trip by returning to Progressive Field and earning their second home win in six games.

Mariners 7, Tigers 4

In Detroit, Alex Liddi had a career-high three hits, including a solo homer, and the Mariners beat the Tigers.

Miguel Cabrera and Alex Avila homered for the Tigers, but it wasn't enough to overcome an early 4-0 deficit. Michael Saunders drove in three runs for Seattle, which snapped a four-game losing streak.

Jason Vargas (3-1) pitched six innings for the Mariners, allowing four runs and six hits. He struck out four and walked one. Three relievers finished, with Brandon League pitching a hitless ninth for his sixth save.

Orioles 2, Blue Jays 1

In Baltimore, Tommy Hunter allowed three hits over six innings, Matt Wieters homered off the glove of left fielder Eric Thames, and the Orioles beat the Blue Jays.

Hunter (2-1) allowed one run, walked three and struck out three. The only runner to get past first base against the right-hander was Thames, who hit a long home run in the third inning.

Pedro Strop, the fourth Orioles reliever, pitched the ninth for his first career save. Baltimore's usual closer, Jim Johnson, spent Monday night in a hospital with flulike symptoms and was unavailable, manager Buck Showalter said before the game.

Rays 5, Angels 0

In St. Petersberg, David Price pitched a five-hitter for his second career shutout, Tampa Bay homered four times, and the Rays beat the Angels.

Price (3-1) gave up all singles in his first shutout since a four-hitter against Toronto on April 25, 2010. His only other complete game came July 2, 2010, against Minnesota.

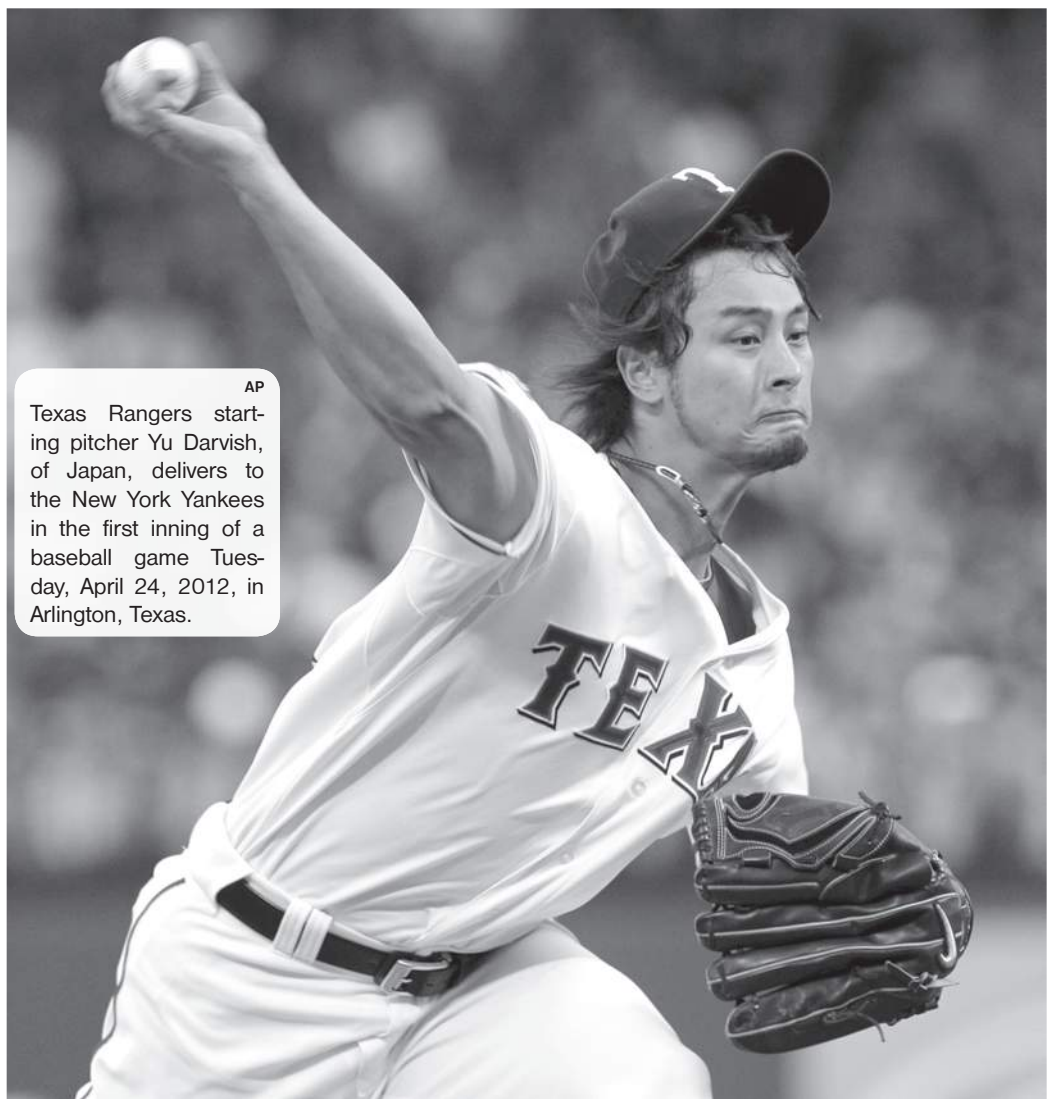
Desmond Jennings, Luke Scott, B.J. Upton and Carlos Pena hit solo homers off Angels starter Ervin Santana (0-4), who has given up at least two home runs in each of his first four starts this season - a total of 10 overall. Don Sutton, in 1986, is the only other Angels pitcher to allow multiple homers in his first four starts, according to Stats LLC.

Red Sox 11, Twins 2

In Minneapolis, Josh Beckett had five strikeouts and one confrontation with an umpire in six sharp innings and David Ortiz homered with three RBIs to lead the Red Sox to a romp over the Twins.

Beckett (2-2) allowed two runs and five hits and Mike Aviles went 4 for 5 with a homer and two RBIs for the Red Sox, who had no trouble with this big lead after squandering a nine-run advantage in a loss to the New York Yankees on Saturday.

Beckett jawed with home plate umpire Adrian Johnson after a rough first inning, but the fiery Texan finished his evening by striking out the side in the sixth.



AP

Texas Rangers starting pitcher Yu Darvish, of Japan, delivers to the New York Yankees in the first inning of a baseball game Tuesday, April 24, 2012, in Arlington, Texas.

Athletics 2, White Sox 0

In Oakland, pinch-hitter Kurt Suzuki doubled in the go-ahead run in the eighth inning, Tommy Milone outdueled Gavin Floyd and the Athletics beat the White Sox.

Daric Barton drew a leadoff walk in the eighth and Luke Hughes struck out before Matt Thornton relieved Floyd (1-3). Suzuki doubled to left and Barton scored easily, then Eric Sogard added an RBI single as the A's ended a 16-inning scoreless stretch going back to Sunday's 5-1 victory against Cleveland.

Chicago's stellar pitching produced yet another strong outing on a road trip full of them, but the White Sox had their four-game winning streak snapped along with a six-game road winning streak.

Mets 2, Marlins 1

In New York, Jose Reyes went hitless in his return to Citi Field and Lucas Duda lined a tie-breaking single in the eighth inning that caromed off reliever Edward Mujica, sending the New York Mets to a 2-1 victory over the Miami Marlins on Tuesday night.

Johan Santana and Josh Johnson zipped through the first six innings in a crisp pitchers' duel between healthy-looking aces. Santana, coming off the shortest start of his career, struck out 11 for the Mets while Johnson whiffed nine.

Both working on six days' rest, each pitcher was charged with one run and three hits in 6 2-3 innings. Santana and Johnson both threw 67 strikes.

Pirates 5, Rockies 4

In Pittsburgh, Andrew McCutchen had three RBIs, Casey McGehee drove in the go-ahead run with an eighth-inning single and the Pirates beat the Rockies.

McGehee's two-out single to right off Matt Belisle (1-1) scored pinch-runner Nate McLouth. Clint Barmes had led off the eighth with his second home run to tie the game at 4-4.

Carlos Gonzalez hit his second two-run homer of the game in the top of the eighth to give Colorado the short-lived lead.

Reds 9, Giants 2

In Cincinnati, Mat Latos finally got his first win for Cincinnati, pitching seven shutout innings against an old NL West nemesis, and Brandon Phillips homered and drove in three runs, leading the Reds over the Giants.

Latos (1-2) came to the Reds in a four-player deal with San Diego and acknowledged trying too hard to impress his new team. He was back on his game against the Giants, allowing only four singles.

Brewers 9, Astros 6

In Milwaukee, Rickie Weeks capped a five-run sixth inning with a three-run homer—one of four Brewers' homers in the game—and Randy Wolf picked up his first win of the season, as Milwaukee beat the Astros, 9-6.

Corey Hart, Travis Ishikawa and Carlos Gomez also homered for Milwaukee, which moved back to .500 (9-9) and beat Houston for the 11th straight time.

The Astros have lost eight of 10.

Cubs 3, Cardinals 2, 10 innings

In Chicago, Alfonso Soriano hit a game-ending RBI single in the 10th inning and the Cubs beat St. Louis, ending the Cardinals' run of 13 consecutive winning series.

Tony Campana sparked the winning rally with a one-out single off Fernando Salas (0-1). Campana then stole second in a close call that led to the first ejection for Cardinals manager Mike Matheny.

Phillies 8, Diamondbacks 5

In Phoenix, Hunter Pence hit a two-run homer, snapping an 0-for-16 slump, and the Phillies went on to beat the Diamondbacks.

Laynce Nix and Shane Victorino also homered and Vance Worley scattered five hits over six innings for the Phillies, who ended a three-game losing streak.

Worley (2-1) walked one and struck out six for his second straight win and Jonathan Papelbon pitched the ninth for his sixth save.

Braves 4, Dodgers 3

In Los Angeles, Chipper Jones homered on his 40th birthday, Martin Prado had two RBIs including a run-scoring triple in the ninth inning, and the Braves beat the Dodgers.

Tyler Pastornicky greeted Dodgers closer Javy Guerra (1-2) with a leadoff single in the ninth and advanced on a sacrifice by pinch-hitter Jack Wilson. Michael Bourn struck out, but Prado drove a 1-2 pitch to center field and over the head of two-time Gold Glove winner Matt Kemp, who caught up to it in the warning track but couldn't hold onto the ball.

Nationals 3, Padres 1

In San Diego, Gio Gonzalez ran his scoreless innings streak to 20 over three starts and the NL East-leading Nationals beat the Padres on just four hits at spacious Petco Park.

Chad Tracy, pinch-hitting for Gonzalez, hit a two-run single with one out in the seventh to chase Clayton Richard.

Grigson makes it official, Colts will take Luck

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—It's official: Andrew Luck will be the No. 1 choice in Thursday night's NFL draft.

Rather than keeping the NFL's worst-kept secret under wraps until Luck's name rolled off the lips of commissioner Roger Goodell, general manager Ryan Grigson decided there was no reason to delay the inevitable: Luck will become the successor to Peyton Manning as Indianapolis' quarterback and the new face of the franchise.

"We didn't the see the point in prolonging what the world already knows," Grigson told reporters Tuesday after a voluntary mini-camp workout. "It's about Andrew and we wanted to do the right thing by him."

The decision is no surprise. Last Wednesday, Grigson said the Colts had made a decision about who to take with the first choice but declined to say whether it would be Luck, the Heisman Trophy runner-up, or Robert Griffin III, the Heisman winner. Less than 24 hours later, The Associated Press learned that the choice would be Luck barring an unforeseen accident.

Indy has been preparing for Luck's arrival for a while.

Grigson said last week that the team made its decision a couple of weeks earlier and that was one reason they didn't have Griffin come to Indy for an interview.

The Stanford quarterback plans to have his entire family in New York on draft night. He'll fly to Indianapolis on Friday, where he will take questions from local reporters and then meet fans at Lucas Oil Stadium, his new home field.

"I've got his number now. I've been waiting to give him a call until everything else was figured out," said quarterback Drew Stanton, who the Colts acquired in a trade with the New York Jets last month. "Try and do that and reach out to him and let him know I'm going to be every bit of a resource that I can for him."

Stanton and Trevor Vittatoe are the only quarterbacks currently on Indy's roster, something that will change Thursday night.

But that's not the reason Grigson made the impromptu announcement Tuesday.

"Really, on behalf the kid, you try to make things a little bit easier on his part. Go ahead and make the decision. Go ahead get it out there officially that he's our guy," new Colts coach Chuck Pagano said. "The intangibles are off the chart. You know the skill set. You've seen his body of work. He's a gym rat. He's a football junkie. He's big. He's strong. He's physical. He can make every throw out there. He's a great leader in his own way."

The Colts have not had the first pick in the draft since 1998 when they selected Manning.

They will also have the final pick Thursday night, marking the first time a non-expansion team has had both the first and last pick in a draft since 1967. The then-expansion Houston Texans also had the first and last pick in 2002.

Home Boyz, Fotten Palau cling to top spots in 8-Ball league

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Jonny's Bar & Grill's Home Boyz and Joe's Steakhouse's Fotten Palau both hold loose grips on first place of their respective divisions in the Saipan Billiards Association's 2012 Budweiser Summer/ Fall Open 8-Ball League after last week's games.

The Home Boyz downed Poseidon's Yang-Ku (70-100), 13-4, on the road in an inter-league play to improve its overall record to 131-39.

The win put the Home Boyz in first place atop the Agingan division as its rival, IT&E Voyagers, managed only a 10-7 home victory over Fotten Palau last Tuesday. The defending champion IT&E Voyagers dropped to second place in the standings last week.

In other Agingan results, the New Saipan Aluminum Hustlers (118-52) skunked Obyan-bottom feeder The Water Front (30-132), 17-0, at home; and Joe's Ocean Warriors (89-81) pummeled Bammy's Restaurant Bar & Grill's Boom-Boom (39-131), 15-2, in an inter-league home match. IT&E Incredibles' (110-60) also played an inter-league match against 19th Hole Bar's Poksu (55-115), but results were unavailable at press time.

In the Obyan division, Fotten Palau (86-84) still holds the top spot by a hair over Jonny's Crazy 8 (85-85), which outlasted the 19th Hole Bar's third-ranked Titans (83-87), 9-8, on the road.

In other results, Jonny's Team SCS (81-89) pulled out a close 9-8 victory over fifth-ranked Wild Bill's Bar & Grill's Shark Attack (76-94) to remain a threat in the field with its fourth place.

EAGLES

From Page 28

ing 11 points and Jonathan Salas adding eight. Kanata Omori led MBA's losing cause with his 15 markers, while Justin Poon chipped in 12. Only five players made it to the scoreboard for MBA, while GCA had eight different players scoring.

GCA vs SIS in girls finals

The Lady Eagles are also in the finals, following a 39-36 win over Mt. Carmel School's Lady Knights last Tuesday at the GCA court.

The Eagles will be playing back-to-back champion Saipan International School in the winner-take-all finals tomorrow at 3:30pm at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Mt. Carmel, which lost to SIS in last year's finals, 28-40, controlled the first half of its semis duel against GCA, but failed to sustain its momentum in the second.

Kaylani Lebria knocked in six early points for MCS' 13-8 lead a after the first period, and the Lady Knights hung on to the lead at halftime, 17-13, despite scoring only four points in the second canto.

Another four-point production in the third allowed MCS to lose the driver's seat. The Lady Eagles were finally in front at the end of the third canto, 26-21, as Jazmin Rayphand continued to anchor GCA's recovery, scoring six more points in that period. She had already nailed 16 markers after the third canto and was still at it in the fourth, drilling eight more to complete the Eagles' come-from-behind win.

Rayphand led all scorers with her 24 markers, while Lebria paced MCS with her 13.

Boys

GCA 56 – A. Salas 11, Libut 11, De Leon 11, J. Salas 8, D. Lee 6, L. Lee 3, Jones 2, Del Rosario 1.

MBA 33 – K. Omori 15, Poon 12, Choi 3, Park 3, Fan 1.

Scoring by quarters: 14-6, 29-10, 44-18, 56-33.

Girls

GCA 39 – Rayphand 24, Demapan 5, Cristobal 5, Pangelinan 3, Mueller 2.

MCS 36 – Lebria 13, M. Kautz 8, Travilla 7, R. Kautz 4, Demapan 4.

Scoring by quarters: 8-13, 13-17, 26-21, 39-36.

OL'ACES

From Page 28

an RBI base rip by Derek Naog.

The Ol'Aces then answered with two runs in the bottom frame with an error and a sacrifice fly by Terson Eina. Notably, relief pitcher, Jessie Brel, stepped to the rubber with two runners on and zero outs in the fourth inning and still pulled the plug on the Falcons offense through the late innings.

The Ol'Aces went on to mount a six-run comeback off five hits in the bottom of the fifth to tie the count at 8-all. Giovanni Taitingfong bagged a two-RBI double, Brel hit an RBI single, and Mike Muna hammered a two-RBI triple and stole home.

After a scoreless sixth, Brel kept it at a standstill in the top half of the last frame and led off the bottom part with a single. Muna stepped in next and cracked the go-ahead double for the win.

Brel gave up just one hit to the first batter he faced, which brought home an inherited runner at third base. He finished with five strikeouts through four innings. Muna batted 3-for-4 with three RBIs, two runs, and a stolen base.

In other results in the Junior League, the Bank of Saipan Red Sox pounced the DYS-Rep. Ramon S. Basa-Frederick P. DL Guerrero-Kagman Lions, 27-1, last Sunday. In the Senior League games last Saturday, IT&E Fielders triumphed over Juan Santiago-Jets II, 6-5; the Docomo Pacific Ol'Aces defeated Saipan Shipping Company's Jets I, 14-8; and the Natibu Talaabwogh Falcons pounced the D-9ers, 13-1.

JUNIOR DIVISION
Red Sox 27, Lions 1

The Red Sox started slow, but went through three pitchers as they ran circles around the Lions last Sunday.

They trickled out an early 3-0 lead in the first three innings off a stolen dish by Melvin Sakisat, an error in the opening frame, and a sacrifice fly by Sakisat later in the third inning.

Then at the start of the fourth inning, the Red Sox erupted with 12 runs off 10 hits.

Nathan Camacho led off with a triple and scored off a passed ball, Jhace Palacios drilled a two-RBI base hit, and Rokie Tenorio bagged an RBI single. Camacho then belted an RBI triple in his second at bat and scored off a wild pitch, while Joseph Tydingco busted a two-RBI double before Palacios made an RBI single on his second turn.

The Lions managed their lone run in the top of the fifth, but the Red Sox pelted them with another dozen runs in the bottom frame and never looked back.

The Red Sox knocked 22 hits around the field over five innings. Camacho batted 4-for-5 with three RBIs and four runs, while Palacios (4-for-6/3 RBIs), Jeffrey Palacios (2-for 2), Sakisat, Tenorio, and Jerald Cabrera all scored three times.

Cabrera was the winning pitcher, throwing darts from the mound and giving up just one earned run off two hits and three walks with three strikeouts through five innings.

SENIOR DIVISION
Fielders 6, Jets II 5

The Jets II started out with a promising 4-0 lead in the opening frame off four hits and some timely walks. They loaded the bases right away and Kyle Hocog cleared them with a double before Ray-Ray Tenorio later drove home the former.

The Jets II's Jeffrey Lizama then led off the third with a hit and scored off an error before the Fielders got their first run from a RBI single by Poland Masaharu in the bottom frame.

The Fielders' starting pitcher Keene Guerrero made it through the fourth unscathed before being tapped by Davin Ada to close the match. The Fielders' were fortunate to receive a gifted run from an error in the fourth inning and kept chomping at the bit with their sticks in the last two frames.

Ada cooled the Jets II down the homestretch, while his teammates pulled within a run in the bottom of the fifth. Khobby Kaipat singled in Masaharu, and Ian Rogolifoi brought Ada to the plate. The Fielders then pulled in front in the sixth inning off some costly throws from the mound.

Ada had three scoreless innings under pressure to keep his team in contention and gave up two hits and a walk with two strikeouts.

Ol'Aces 14, Jets I 8

The Ol'Aces broke the ice with three runs in the first inning off three hits. Jun Rabauliman and AJ Lizama pounded back-to-back in-the-park home runs.

The count then shifted to 8-1, after the second frame, as the Ol'Aces racked up five more runs off a couple hits and some errors. Rabauliman and Verlance Secharmedal bagged RBI singles.

The Jets I halved the deficit in the third inning with a pair of RBI base rips by Quinson Blas and Lorenzo Attao and an RBI walk, but the Ol'Aces escaped with a pick of ducks on the pond.

Jets I's Mathew Maeda belted a solo in-the-park homer at the start of the fourth, but the Aces responded with four runs in the bottom frame off four hits. Lizama cranked another in-the-park homer and Paul Bower bagged a RBI single.

The Ol'Aces went on to add two more runs in the bottom of the fifth and held Jets I to three runs when they postured in the top of the sixth inning to secure the win.

Rabauliman batted 3-for-4 with three RBIs and three runs; Secharmedal went 3-for-4 with two RBIs, three runs, and a stolen base; and Maeda batted 3-for-4 with two runs and was just a double shy of the cycle.

Falcons 13, D-9ers 1

The Falcons assumed an early 4-1 lead with a pair of runs in both the first and second innings from a RBI double and a stolen dish by Raymond Saralu, followed up with a run off an error and a sacrifice fly by Jose Lizama.

The D-9ers' Jeremy Atalig hooked up with his leadoff man Brandon Dela Cruz in the very first inning, but Falcons' pitcher Ricky Riungel tightened up his game for the rest of his shift.

Riungel's teammates sealed the deal with seven runs in the third inning off six hits. Frankie Norita bagged an RBI double, Frankie Lieto hit a two-RBI single, and Brandon Lieto nailed an RBI base knock.

The Falcons had a run in the fourth and fifth frames before earning the early nod.

Riungel gave up one earned run off three hits and a hit batsman with five strikeouts through four innings. Norita swung 3-for-4 with an RBI and three runs; Saralu batted 3- for-4 with an RBI, two runs, and a stolen base. The D-9ers' Atalig went 2-for-2 with an RBI.

MPU

From Page 28

into the win column, as it absorbed its fifth loss in six games.

Shirley's FC 3, Paire 1

Pacesetter Shirley's FC got its fourth win in five games after beating Paire.

Marielle Gariguez made twin goals for Shirley's FC, which was awarded the third goal off a Paire error. All Shirley's goals were recorded in the second half.

Paire took a 1-0 lead at the break after Adela Saralu found the back of the net midway in the first half, but Shirley's regrouped in the second half to foil the former's upset bid.

Paire fell to a 1-2-3 record for fourth place behind Matansa (2-1-1), MP United, and Shirley's FC (4-1-0).

BOYS U18
Paire 3, Tan Holdings 1

Over at the Oleai Sports Complex Field, Paire won the lone game played in the boys U18 division, prevailing against Tan Holdings FC.

Thomas Lee had a pair for Paire, while the third goal was courtesy of a Tan Holdings miscue. The only player to score for Tan Holdings was not listed in the official match report.

Paire improved to a 4-0-3 card for second place behind MP United (7-0-0), while Tan Holdings fell to a 2-1-5 record for the No. 3 spot in the four-team field.

MP United had a free ride en route to its seventh win after a no-show from Matansa in the first match last Saturday. Matansa dropped to a 0-1-6 record.

CNMI

From Page 28

pends on how hard you work," Kami was quoted as saying in the AFC website.

Also present at the start of the course was AFC Elite Coaching Instructor Kwok Ka Ming of Hong Kong.

"We will teach you how to be a coach, and we hope more and more excellent young football coaches are generated," Kwok said.

Besides the coaching course, the festival is also holding a seminar for physiotherapists with Gary Ramsey representing the CNMI and joining 17 other physiotherapists and physicians.

Physiotherapy instructor Meechai Inwood of Thailand is leading the course that aims to produce more professional physiotherapists for participating nations.

The course, according to the AFC website, contains the basic knowledge of the general physical therapist course, such as maintenance of football players' health and dealing with injury in football matches, and some important issues, such as on-field emergency management and medicine management.

Attending various AFC activities is crucial in the CNMI's bid to develop the sport on the island and seek full membership to the most populous among FIFA's six confederations.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Boston	38	27	.585	–
x-New York	34	30	.531	3 1/2
x-Philadelphia	34	30	.531	3 1/2
New Jersey	22	43	.338	16
Toronto	22	43	.338	16

Southeast Division

y-Miami	46	19	.708	–
x-Atlanta	39	26	.600	7
x-Orlando	36	28	.563	9 1/2
Washington	18	46	.281	27 1/2
Charlotte	7	57	.109	38 1/2

Central Division

z-Chicago	48	16	.750	–
x-Indiana	42	23	.646	6 1/2
Milwaukee	31	33	.484	17
Detroit	24	41	.369	24 1/2
Cleveland	21	43	.328	27

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

z-San Antonio	48	16	.750	–
x-Memphis	40	25	.615	8 1/2
x-Dallas	36	29	.554	12 1/2
Houston	33	32	.508	15 1/2
New Orleans	21	44	.323	27 1/2

Northwest Division

y-Oklahoma City	47	18	.723	–
x-Denver	36	28	.563	10 1/2
Utah	35	30	.538	12
Portland	28	37	.431	19
Minnesota	26	39	.400	21

Pacific Division

x-L.A. Lakers	41	24	.631	–
x-L.A. Clippers	40	25	.615	1
Phoenix	33	32	.508	8
Golden State	23	42	.354	18
Sacramento	21	44	.323	20

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division
z-clinched conference

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	10	7	.588	–
New York	10	7	.588	–
Tampa Bay	10	7	.588	–
Toronto	10	7	.588	–
Boston	6	10	.375	3 1/2

Central Division

Cleveland	9	6	.600	–
Chicago	10	7	.588	–
Detroit	10	7	.588	–
Minnesota	5	13	.278	5 1/2
Kansas City	3	14	.176	7

West Division

Texas	14	4	.778	–
Oakland	9	10	.474	5 1/2
Seattle	8	10	.444	6
Los Angeles	6	11	.353	7 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	13	4	.765	–
Atlanta	11	7	.611	2 1/2
New York	9	8	.529	4
Philadelphia	8	10	.444	5 1/2
Miami	7	9	.438	5 1/2

Central Division

St. Louis	11	7	.611	–
Milwaukee	9	9	.500	2
Cincinnati	8	9	.471	2 1/2
Pittsburgh	7	9	.438	3
Chicago	6	12	.333	5
Houston	6	12	.333	5

West Division

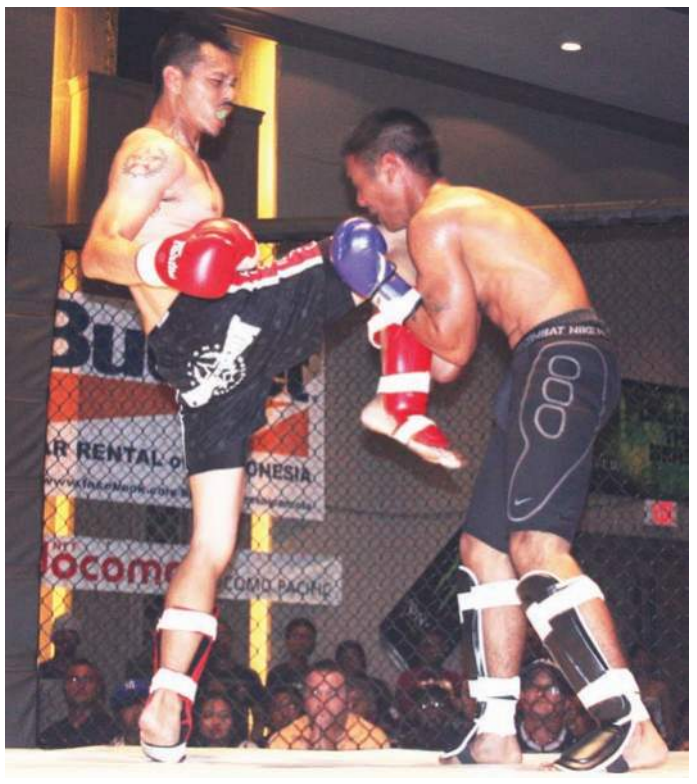
Los Angeles	13	5	.722	–
San Francisco	9	8	.529	3 1/2
Arizona	9	9	.500	4
Colorado	8	8	.500	4
San Diego	5	13	.278	8

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rites of Passage 12: Unstoppable

PHOTOS by WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Spike 22's Ricky Camp, wrangles up Marianas Elite's Vince "Vincesanity" Pua in the Saipan vs. Guam grudge match in the Rites of Passage 12: Unstoppable held last Friday at the Saipan World Resort.



K-1 Guahan's Sonny Chargualaf, left, connects with a vicious knee to Regino Mundo's chin in their K-1 match set at 145lbs.

Countershot's Jon "The Heat" Delos Reyes, left, unleashes a flurry of punches against Trench Tech's Josh "Chaos" Duenas.

Trench Tech's Seong Ho Chung, celebrates after winning his MMA debut over Tinian's Ton Borja.

Trench Tech featherweight champion Rob "The Chamorro Zombie" Wusstig, left, of Countershot-Guam raises the hand of Fasi "Quick Draw" Jesse after the latter's arm bar victory over Lights Out Gym's Ryan "The Predator" Toves.

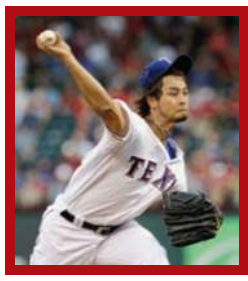
Guam Muay Thai's Justin "JD" Dizon, left, and Danny Agulto have an early exchange in their K-1 kickboxing bout.

Trench Tech's Tabita Lueta, right, delivers a nice leg kick against Guam Muay Thai-newcomer Jeremy "Pacman" Javellana.

Guam Muay Thai's Justin "JD Dizon performs the traditional Waikru dance ritual before his kickboxing match against Danny Agulto.

Trench Tech's Mylo "Bam-Bam" Lassiter falls to the floor in excitement after notching a first round victory against Guam's Pete "Big Mac" Miyasaki in the heavyweight main event.

Trench Tech's Vince "The Clinch" Masga, left, tries to lock in an armbar submission on Marianas Elite's Derrick "El Peligro" Rangamar in their featherweight MMA bout.



Darvish strikes out 10, Rangers beat Yankees

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Metta World Peace suspended 7 games for elbow

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Eagles cruise to varsity finals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Grace Christian Academy boosted its chances for a three-peat in the boys varsity division of the Coalition of Private Schools Sports Association Basketball League after beating Marianas Baptist Academy, 56-33, and advancing to the finals yesterday.

Grace Christian Academy's James Libut pulls up for a jumper against two Marianas Baptist Academy defenders during their semis game in the varsity division of the COPSA caging yesterday at the GCA basketball court on Navy Hill.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Eagles, who claimed the varsity championship in the past two years, will go for their third title in a row tomorrow against the winner of the Mt. Carmel-Agape Christian School semis duel, which was also played yesterday at the Knights home turf. The one-game finals is set for 4:30pm at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium at the TSL Sports Complex in Gualo Rai.

The GCA-MBA tiff was played at the Eagles home court and the host wasted no time in controlling the game with Karlo De Leon, Angelo and Jonathan Salas, and James Libut joining forces in eliminating their semis foe.

De Leon made his first basket from downtown and he went on to finish with five points in the opening canto to give GCA a 14-6 lead. Then in the second quarter, it was Libut and Jonathan Salas' turn to contribute for the Eagles, as they combined for 11 of the team's 15 markers, upping their lead to double-digits at the break, 29-10.

The MBA Stormz was held to 10 points in the first half as it was limited to only four field goals and the team continued to struggle in the third period, allowing a GCA breakaway.

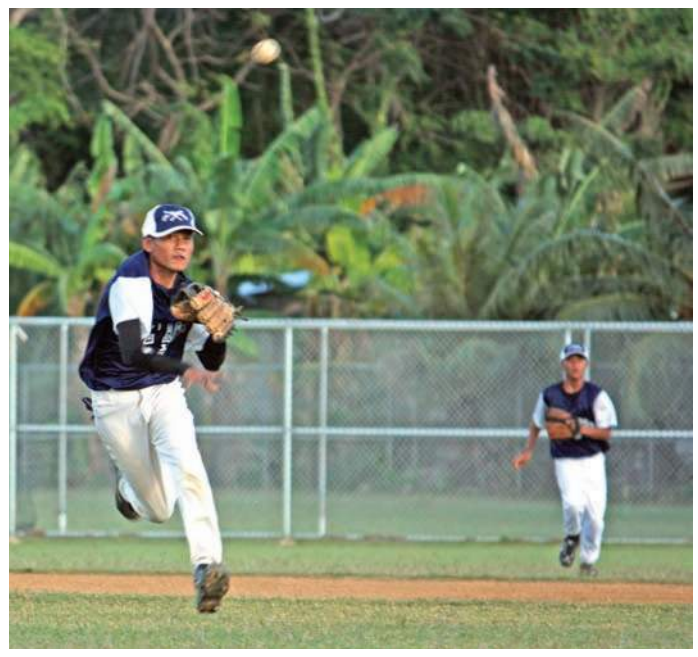
By the end of the third, the Eagles' lead ballooned to 26, 44-18, as Angelo Salas stepped in with two triples and one two-pointer, while Libut added four more points and De Leon drained another triple.

With the game already in the bag, GCA acting coach Genesis Prieto shuffled his players in the fourth quarter and MBA capitalized on the frequent rotation to score 15 points in the final canto, the latter's best production in a quarter.

At the end of the lopsided match, three GCA players broke into double figures with Angelo Salas, Libut, and De Leon fir-

See EAGLES on Page 26

Ol'Aces nip Falcons in Junior League, 9-8



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

The Ol'Aces Jessie Brel, seen in this file photo, hung tough on the mound in their 9-8 win over the Falcons in the Junior League game last Sunday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Hawaiya Technologies, Inc. Ol'Aces survived the Natibu Sports Association Talaabwogh Falcons, 9-8, during their game in the Juniors division of the Saipan Little League Baseball last Sunday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Falcons pitcher Alfonso Angelista cut through the Ol'Aces' line up the first time around for a trio of 1-2-3 innings, as his teammates built a 6-0 margin.

Falcons' Barry Sunumai and Frankie Lifoifoi scored off errors in the first and second frames and the flock worked around four more runs in the third, primarily from a triple by Christopher Sablan with the bases loaded.

The Falcons then added two runs in the top of the fourth inning off a triple by Juan Quitugua and

See OL' ACES on Page 26

MPU routs Tan Holdings in girls U15 league, 7-0

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

MP United's Gabrielle Race goes for a corner kick during their game against Tan Holdings FC last Saturday in the girls U15 division of the NMIFA youth league at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

MP United FC had a smooth sailing in Week 6 of the girls U15 division of the 2012 NMIFA Youth Spring League, following a 7-0 demolition of Tan Holdings FC last Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

Negahr Rastguiy, Gabrielle Race, and Jamie Mariano teamed up in MP United's easy win with the former scoring a hat-trick. Race and Mariano added two goalsapiece to improve MP United's record to 3-3-0 (win-draw-loss) and keep the team in second place in the five-squad field.

Race drew first blood for MP United, while Rastguiy drilled three straight goals in the first half for their 4-0 halftime lead. Mariano started the second half with her first goal, while Race got her second one and the former ended the game with another goal.

Tan Holding's has yet to break

See MPU on Page 26

CNMI well represented in AFC activities

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI through the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association continued its active involvement in Asian Football Confederation-led events as shown in its participation in activities in the AFC U-14 Boys' Festival of Football for East Asia in Beijing, China.

After former MP United boys U18 player Yishan Wang joined the referee preparatory course last Friday, NMIFA sent three more representatives for the festival's activities. Shirley's FC's Russel Zapanta and Tan Holding's FC's Joe Miller are attending a "C" Football Coaching Certificate Course at the China National Football Training Centre near Xhianghe-Hebei Province, joining 21 other participants from the 10 East Asian member associations of the AFC.

Zapanta and Miller are with the representatives of Macau, China, Mongolia, Guam, North and South Korea, Japan, Hong Kong, and Chinese-Taipei.

AFC Festival Project Manager Dr. Shamil Kamil opened the course that will run until April 29, and "has urged the participants to grab the opportunity to learn as much as possible and to be committed throughout the course," according to the AFC website.

"The course is very important for all the participants, who can share experience and exchange ideas with each other. Our young coaches can work closely with the senior instructors and the AFC will fully support you from all sides. How successful this course will be de-

See CNMI on Page 26